OCTOBER 19–25, 2018 / VOLUME 24 / NUMBER 04

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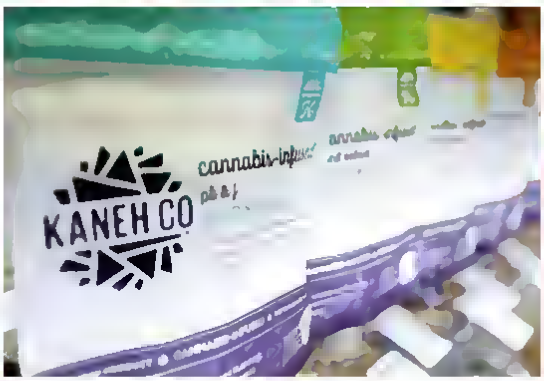
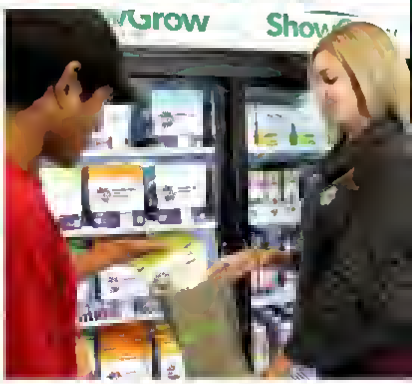




SHOWGROW x KANEH CO.

Early every morning, the frontline of cannabis wakes up and opens its doors to another day of business. Although familiar to most retailers, the cannabis industry, still in its infancy, is breeding a new kind of retail employee. Where dispensary employees once had to lurk in the shadows of the legal gray area in which they operated, they now suddenly find themselves legally recognized and empowered to serve an exploding population that desires adult-use cannabis and a safe, welcoming environment.

Lisa & Crizzle represent two of these licensed cannabis pioneers, operating as General Managers in two separate ShowGrow California locations. With more than a decade of experience in the retail cannabis industry, they have witnessed first-hand the ups and downs of managing a cannabis retail store, an experience like none other in the retail industry.

This year, ShowGrow Orange County is proud to celebrate its back-to-back-to-back "Dispensary of the Year" award and if that weren't enough, ShowGrow's new Long Beach location won the 2018 Dispensary of the Year award for its region.

When you speak to the leadership at ShowGrow they will tell you that one of the biggest keys to their success is the valued relationships with their vendor partners. Kaneh Co has been preferred vendor of ShowGrow since the beginning. Kaneh has not only navigated the licensed edible market, which has its own perils, and they have been able to accomplish incredible growth from a small select group of employees to an established, successful team that has just won the Best Pantry Edible Award for 2018. With 19 extremely tasty product offerings and a team of talented pastry chefs, driven by Product Representative Brooke Rainer, Kaneh Co has demonstrated that delivering products with consistency, quality, and care is an amazing foundation for continued success.

Following is an interview with Brooke Rainer From Kaneh Co, Crizzle Caliva from ShowGrow Long Beach, and Lisa Leonard From ShowGrow Orange County.

DESCRIBE SHOWGROW IN ONE SENTENCE.

LG: Showgrow cultivates change through our relentless efforts to be recognized in the cannabis industry as the retailer of choice, employer of choice, partner of choice and friend to the community
CC: Showgrow is here today helping, growing, and cultivating change.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WORK IN CANNABIS?

LG: The opportunity to flourish in a career that is compassionate and fast paced. Cannabis has never been a job to me and when the opportunity to be part of this young and growing industry presented itself I ran with it
CC: I've always been passionate about cannabis. Helping people heal in such natural way and watching an industry bloom right in front of my eyes has been the best part.

WHAT IS A PERSONAL HIGHLIGHT/MEMORY OF YOUR TIME WITH SHOWGROW?

LG: My first year with ShowGrow was the first year we won OC Weekly's Best Dispensary. Sharing that winning moment with my team was an absolutely pivotal moment in my career. That's when I knew I found my home in this industry.
CC: Opening our location in Long Beach was definitely my highlight, it was an amazing time. I got to work side by side with young, passionate, smart individuals while building, merchandising and intaking the products a few days before our opening was a thrill. We were able to pull it off and the grand opening was a success

HOW DOES SOMEONE BECOME A VENDOR WITH SHOWGROW?

LG: We host open vendor meetings every Tuesday at our shop from 1pm to 2pm. Our Vendor Liaison makes himself available during that time to meet with every vendor personally. We have an extensive internal sampling process, that includes a broad group of experts who ultimately determine if the product is worthy of sitting on the Show Grow shelves
CC: We have our vendors set up a meeting with our buyer. Once the meeting is done samples will be taken for the buyer and staff to try and if a good general consensus comes back then your product is considered for ShowGrow's shelves.

HOW DO YOU MAKE SURE YOUR VENDORS VALUES ALIGN WITH SHOWGROW'S HIGH STANDARDS?

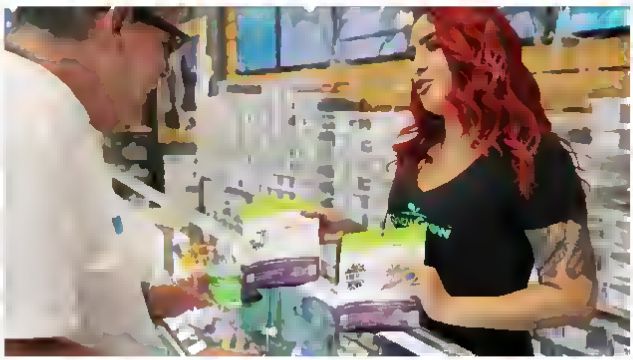
LG: ShowGrow is a company with high moral values. It is important that our vendors share those values, are seen as friends to the community, provide consistent quality and affordable products and are interested in a genuine relationship, partnering to make the industry and the world a better place. We are not interested in working with vendors that view us as just another transaction.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN KANEH CO OVERCOME OBSTACLES THAT OTHER VENDORS HAVE STRUGGLED WITH?

LG: Yes. Kaneh Co. is a great brand whose values align with ShowGrow's values. Compliance for any cannabis company is extremely challenging and Kaneh CO. has seen their fair share of struggles and persevered.
The one thing we have been able to rely on with Kaneh CO. has been their ability to keep a full assortment of SKU's on our shelves. Kaneh CO. has been able to do exactly that during a time when most vendors have not.
CC: Maintaining multiple skus and full assortment of products, Kaneh CO. has always delivered exceptional support when it comes to patient appreciation day and budtender training and that's something most vendors struggles with.

DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SHOWGROW

BR: Showgrow was one of our very first clients. Their business has been a big part of our growth throughout the years. The values of our companies are aligned completely in that we both strive for the ultimate quality customer experience. We both believe in unwavering quality, consistency, and compliance. The fact that we are likeminded makes for a great relationship between our two companies. Showgrow has stuck with us throughout all of our changes and bumps in the road, and they have made us a fixture for their clientele.



WHAT MAKES YOUR PRODUCTS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER EDIBLES ON THE MARKET?

BR: We are a chef driven company that hand crafts all of our products. We include the finest ingredients we can source and put the utmost care into each item that comes out of our kitchen. We value the taste of our product as paramount as the cannabis portion of the experience. An experienced team of pastry chefs prepares each batch of product that we painstakingly weigh, quality check, and package.

HOW HAS YOUR COMPANY EVOLVED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS?

BR: We started out as a 5 person operation of friends and family and have grown above and beyond our wildest expectations. We have fine-tuned our products and systems over the years in order to keep up with the demands of regulations. We have a line of 19 products, including no refined sugar added items and gluten free items. It was important for us to include these so clients that do not consume those ingredients could also enjoy our brand. We are now doing holiday special edition products and are looking forward to expanding our product line with other confections.

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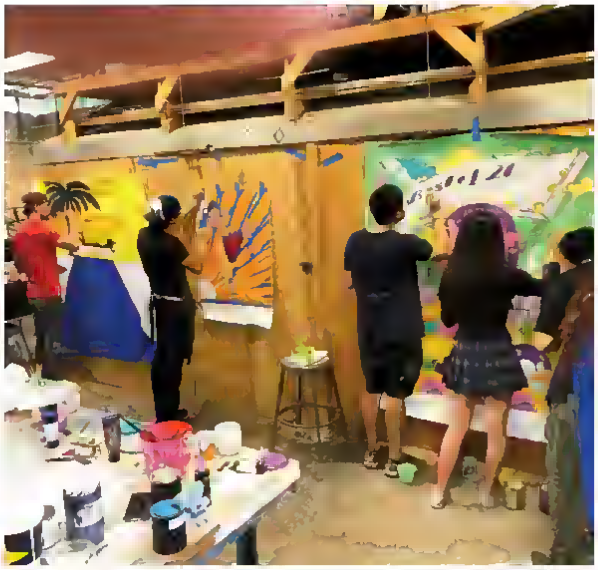

CYNTHIA REBOLLEDO

OC WEEKLY BEST OF 2018

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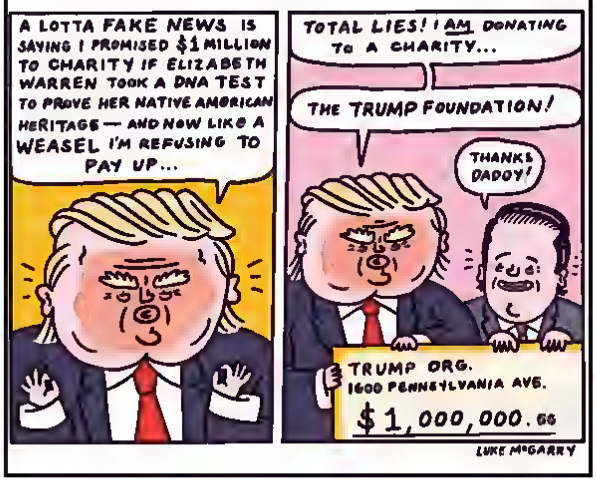
on the cover

Mural by Dave Van Patten
Design by Richie Beckman

ORANGE FEATHERS »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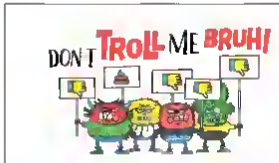


"Another lame attempt to make Santa Ana something it's not. The only good thing was the Crosby and unfortunately that's long gone. [Emoji thumbs down.]"
—Roland, commenting on Nate Jackson's "La Santa Hopes to be the Saving Grace of Santa Ana Night Life"

Our response: A bar made for Santaneros by Santaneros.... How about we give it a chance and see what it is before we say what it isn't?

RAZAVI
Law Group

Ali Razavi, Esq., is the founder and managing attorney at Razavi Law Group, APC (RLG), a personal injury and employment litigation law firm. Mr. Razavi is an Orange County native, having been born and raised in Mission Viejo.

The concept behind Mr. Razavi's law firm was influenced by his family. His father, Amir Razavi, is a successful entrepreneur and businessman in the field of medicine, specifically in the area of stem cell therapy, and his grandfather was an attorney, diplomat and ambassador.

Mr. Razavi also has a prestigious résumé. He graduated at the top of his class at UCLA, earning cum laude honors. He pursued his Juris Doctor at Chapman University's reputable Fowler School of Law, where he focused on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The ADR committee nominated Mr. Razavi to represent Fowler School of Law in an international negotiation competition in London, England, where he ranked as a finalist among 130 competitors from top law schools around the world.

During Mr. Razavi's quest to master the intricate details of negotiations, he observed a subtle nuance that would become the vision for RLG. He noticed that not everyone was capable of effectively using their voice to communicate their problems, that not everyone could stand up for themselves.

Mr. Razavi discovered that the specific set of skills he had cultivated throughout the years could help assist everyday individuals combating against intimidating insurance companies and employers. As a result, he started a law firm where people's voices could actually be heard.

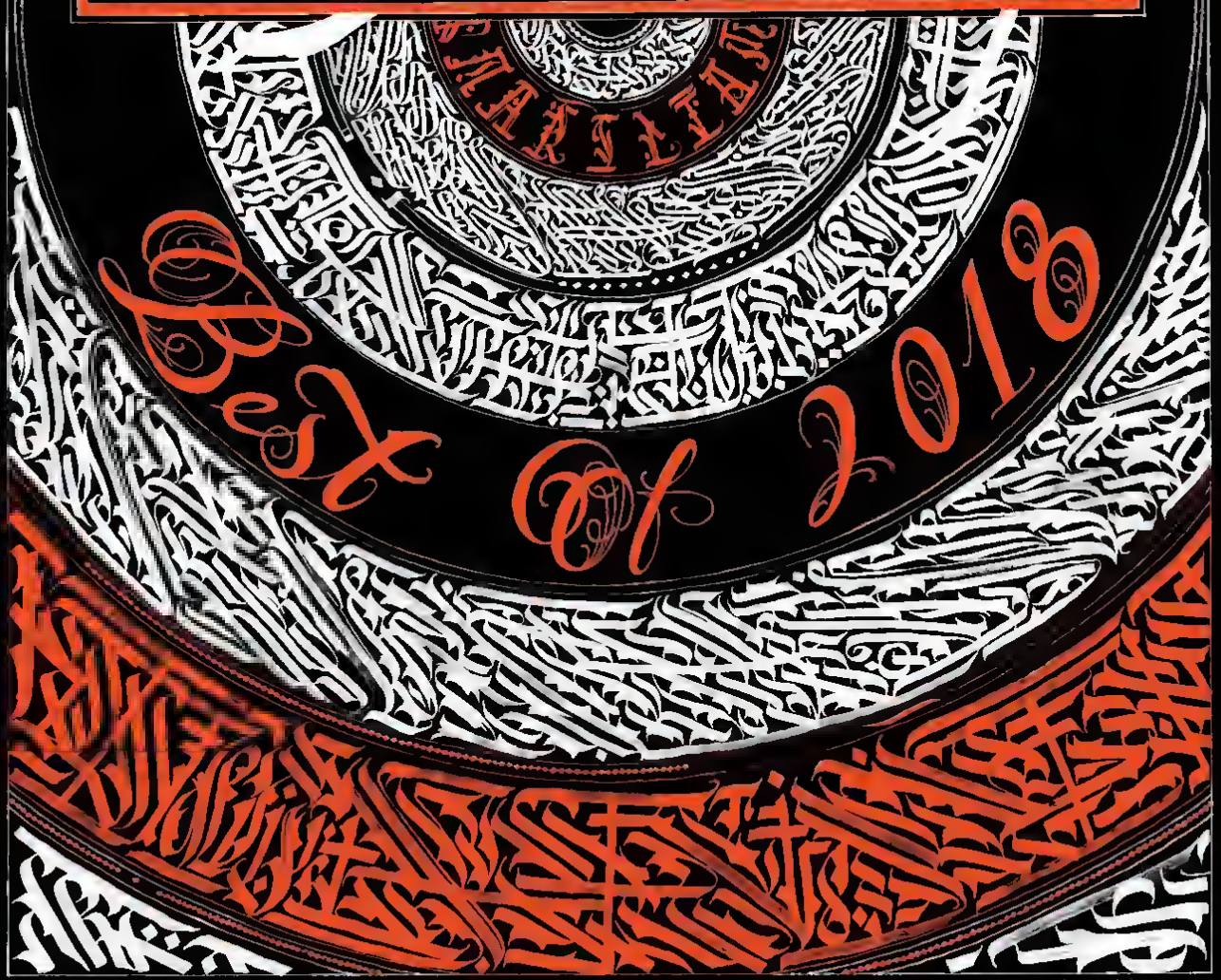
At RLG, the mantra is **"Let Your Voice Be Heard."** Mr. Razavi successfully created a vehicle to help people who had been harmed by large corporations because of a lack of resources and intimidation. RLG focuses on communication and the clients' overall experience, so the attorneys can properly step into the shoes of their clients during representation and bring the fight that their clients could not bring alone.

Razavi Law Group, APC, focuses on personal injury (motor vehicle and pedestrian accidents, dog bites, catastrophic injuries, etc.) and employment law (wage and hour violations, harassment, and wrongful termination). However, if you have a case that RLG cannot assist you with, the firm will be happy to refer you to an attorney who can.

Welcome to *OC Weekly*'s 2018 Best Of issue! While in years past, we have chosen various, sometimes frivolous themes to help decorate our annual collection of everything we love about Orange County's cultural attractions, entertainment options, shopping, food and more, this year we teamed up with Santa Ana College, home to the recently revived Mural Program. As our publisher, Cynthia Rebolledo, recently wrote, after a 20-year hibernation, the college relaunched the program, thanks to art professor Damian Hostetter, who managed to create a 24-unit program and obtain certification from the state of California that allows SAC to provide the state's first official college-level mural program. (See Parting Shots on the back page for more info.)

Inside this issue, you'll discover not only the best place to find churros, but also the best illustrations of ice cream. The depiction of martial arts will inspire you to check out the studio we name as where to go. You'll be entertained by the images in the Arts & Entertainment section—and, we hope, moved to hear more from the Best New Band and check out the Best Theater/Playhouse. Perhaps the creative artwork surrounding our Shopping and Services picks will lead you to the Best Downtown? And the trippy drawings in the Cannabis section will surely enhance your future toking experiences. And don't forget to look for the winners of our Readers' Poll throughout the issue!

A big shout-out to Hostetter, the artists and all the students who collaborated with *OC Weekly*, as well as all the staff, freelancers and interns who collectively made this Best Of happen. We are proud to help bring public art back to the streets, and we can't wait to hear from you, the readers, about the results of our efforts!



JOHNNY ASHBAUGH

JASON PEREIRA, NICK CHAK, STEPHANIE FUENTES, RANZEN A. OCAMPO

STATION 17

BE TRUE TO YOU

129 ½ Main Street Seal Beach CA 90740

Once a pop-up boutique at street fairs, marketplaces and festivals, Station 17 is now a brick-and-mortar in Seal Beach, selling boho-chic and street-sassy clothing, accessories, gifts and candy. It's named Station 17 because it is a "station" where all of owner Cynthia Freund's paths in life meet; the 17 is for the day she was born.

Freund has been involved in all aspects of the fashion industry. She began her journey in retail and modeling in the surf industry with Quiksilver and Raisins Swimwear. She then went to UC Santa Barbara, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Film Studies. Her first internship was at MTV, where she quickly learned that wardrobe styling and costume design were her calling. After much persistence, she landed a job with the TV show Friends. She went on to dress musicians on stages and album covers, as well as numerous people on runways and for magazines, television shows and commercials. Her credits are very diverse. She has styled fashion shows at LA Fashion week and for P&G Hair products including Sebastian and Wella. She has wardrobed commercials for companies such as Amazon, Ford, Taco Bell and Mountain Dew. And in music, she has worked with the American Idols, Motley Crüe and John Mayer. She has styled many celebrities including Rob Lowe, Kat Von D and Pamela Anderson. The most recent TV shows she worked were After Lately with Chelsea Handler and Lohan Beach Club with Lindsay Lohan.

Station 17 started as a side project. It was not much different from working in production as a wardrobe stylist, with the shopping, long hours, outdoor elements, schlepping and crazy people. But instead of dressing actors, she was dressing "real" people. After two years of happy customers, blood, sweat and tears, Freund decided it was time to turn her pop-up into something more permanent. The boutique is a reflection of her colorful life, with everything from airy bohemian and beach styles to bold rock & roll pieces. Not only will you find fun unique clothing, but you will also discover earth-inspired jewelry and gifts, pop-culture designs on flannels and matches, succulents in melted records and liquor bottles, worldly musical instruments, candles and oils, toys, and a vintage candy station.

Come visit Station 17 in Old Town Seal Beach, where Main Street's tree-lined, cobblestone sidewalks lead to the ocean. It's a great escape from the hustle and bustle of life for anyone who is "Classy, Sassy & a bit Smart Assy!!!"

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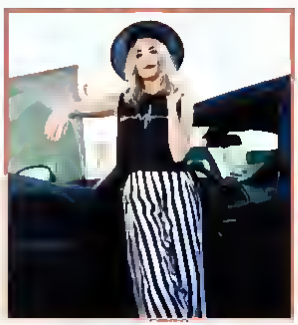

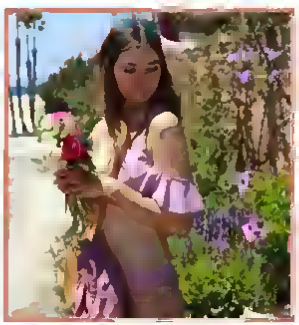
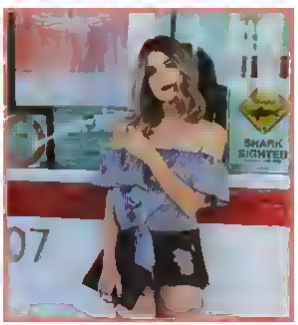

Best of 2018 Sports & Recreation

Best Angels Player
MIKE TROUT

Team Best Of was looking forward to shaking things up in 2018 by giving the nod to Shohei Ohtani for his fabulous, near-historic start to the season as a pitcher and designated hitter, which produced something akin to Fernandomania hark in the day in LA. However, a June 7 arm injury ended Ohtani's dream season prematurely, and though the Japanese superstar quickly returned to the batter's box—and the practice mound at the time this was written—there is no denying the monster numbers again being put up by his teammate Trouti. Before he was placed on the 10-day disabled list in August, the six-time Major League Baseball All-Star, two-time American League Most Valuable Player and consensus best all-around player in the game boasted a .309 batting average, which was three points higher than his career average. Trout had also collected 30 home runs, 60 runs batted in and 21 stolen bases. His homer at July's All-Star Game had him joining Al Kaline and Mickey Mantle as the only other players to have hit two dingers in MLB showcases before reaching age 27.

Angel Stadium, 2000 E. Gene Autry Way, Anaheim. (714) 424-4357, www.mlb.com/LA-Angels

READERS' CHOICE: MIKE TROUT

Best Angels Hall of Famer
VLADIMIR GUERRERO

Driving by Angel Stadium, portraits of sluggers Shohei Ohtani, Mike Trout and Albert Pujols hang from sidewalk posts. And then, an old familiar face appears from the rows above. Even though Vladimir Guerrero played his last game as a Halo in 2009 before ending his storied career elsewhere, his likeness doesn't feel out of place. Vlady cemented that bond by becoming the first player donning an Angels cap on his image immortalized in bronze at the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. The right fielder wasted no time creating his legacy after coming to Anaheim from the Montreal Expos in 2004. That season, Guerrero belted 39 home runs and 126 RBIs while batting .337 from the plate. The stellar stat line earned him American League MVP honors. He continued swinging at pitches wildly outside the strike zone and turning them into improbable base hits for the Angels in the five seasons that followed. When inducted, Guerrero kept his Hall of Fame acceptance speech short and sweet, but his Angels baseball legacy is now for the ages.

Best Dog Park
HUNTINGTON DOG BEACH

The official boundaries are the beachside of Pacific Coast Highway from Seapoint Avenue to 21st Street, but frequent visitors (and their masters) know it stretches farther and farther on either end. Paws crossed that does not ultimately endanger the designated swath of sand and surf that includes picnic tables, grassy areas, public restrooms, doggie-waste-bag dispensers and nearby, non-outrageous public parking. (Just $1.75 per hour on meters that take cards, coins or currency.) Under ordinance, dogs are supposed to remain leashed at Dog Beach, but Surf City looks the other way so long as your pooch is not endangering people or other flea collectors. Sugeagoodboy!

100 Goldenwest St., Huntington Beach, (714) 841-6644, www.dogbeach.org

Best Place to Play Pool
BLUE DOLPHIN RESTAURANT & BILLIARDS

It's difficult to believe this pool hall, bar and Chinese-American restaurant is still open in ever-prettified Dana Point. But the throwback haven for billiard-lovers abides, providing space for a few friends to hang out or throw birthday bashes and tournaments. The Blue Dolphin boasts well-lit, green-felted tables upstairs and down, in addition to foosball, darts and a shuffleboard game. There's even a coin-operated table. American Poolplayers Association contenders in 9-ball play at this wonderful dive, so go before its inevitable demise. Just keep one eye out for sharks when you've consumed too many kamikazes, which always seem to be on special.

34130 Pacific Coast Hwy., Dana Point, (949) 489-2936, www.facebook.com/Blue-Dolphin-Restaurant-Billiards-1665417047023 4

READERS' CHOICE: MISSION BAR

Best Beach
CRYSTAL COVE STATE PARK

If you mind the tides, it's possible to beach-comb the entire 3-plus miles of beaches, coves and points in a single visit. Swim or bodysurf Muddy Creek, El Moro, the Historic District—where you can see the ramshackle cottages from the water—and the middle of Treasure Cove. Or just snooze under an umbrella until it's time to grab a drink at the Beachcomber. True, a $15 day-use fee is required, but it helps to preserve and protect all our State Parks and makes your beach day feel even more like a vacation. Plus, all the naturalist programming is free. Perhaps, if you go tide-pooling with a guide, you'll get to see the two-spot octopus or tiny-yet-psychedelic blue dorid. Just remember the only thing you are allowed to take home is sea glass, aside from the sand that gets everywhere.

8471 N. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 494-3539, www.crystalcovestatepark.org/beaches-2

READERS' CHOICE: LAGUNA BEACH

JOHNNY ASHBAUGH, LAURA A. LEYVA, HECTOR MARTINEZ

Best Ride at Disneyland
BIG THUNDER MOUNTAIN RAILROAD

Since 1979, guests have been embarking on a journey through Rainbow Ridge Mining Town. A red engine train takes passengers through bumpy winding roads as they escape the perils of an exploding abandoned gold mine. To many, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad does not compare to the likes of Space Mountain, but the anticipation of not knowing what is to come after each sharp turn is what makes this ride all the more exhilarating. Thus, it is truly "the wildest ride in the wilderness."

Disneyland, 1313 Disneyland Dr., Anaheim, (714) 781-4636, disneyland.com

Best Sportscaster
ROB FUKUZAKI

His only association with Orange County—other than his daily ABC7 sportscasts that are picked up here because of our inclusion in the Los Angeles broadcast market—is being the host of pre- and post-game shows of the Los Angeles Chargers, whose headquarters are in Costa Mesa. When Torrance-born, Hawaii-raised Fukuzaki joined the Eyewitness News team in 1994, he became the first male Japanese-American anchor in LA's regional television-news game. He's gone on to win several awards from the Southern California Broadcast Journalism Society, but Fukuzaki would tell you his greatest achievement is his charity and community work, especially on behalf of the Heads Up Youth Foundation. Having founded the nonprofit that assists disadvantaged youths in Southern California through sports programs in 1997, Fukuzaki continues to serve as its chairman.

READERS' CHOICE: CHICK HEARN

OC Weekly Best Of 2018

TD THE WINNERS DF THE 2018 BEST DF READERS' PDLL

The following have been voted the best in the Sports & Recreation category.

BEST ANGELS PLAYER
MIKE TRDUT
www.mlb.com/angels

BEST BEACH
LAGUNA BEACH
visitlagunabeach.com

BEST BOOT CAMP
AXIDMS FITNESS
Anaheim
Axiomsfitness.com

BEST BOWLING ALLEY
FDREST LANES
Lake Forest
forestlanes.com

BEST DAY TRIP
CATALINA ISLAND
catalinachamber.com

BEST DIVE SHOP
SEAS THE DAY SCUBA
Brea
seasthedayscuba.com

BEST DUCKS PLAYER
RYAN GETZLAF
nhl.com/ducks

BEST GOLF COURSE
PELICAN HILL
Newport Coast
pelicanhill.com

BEST GYM
AXIDMS FITNESS
Anaheim
axiomsfitness.com

BEST LOCAL SURFER
TYLER STANALAND
www.worldsurfleague.com/athletes/773/tyler-stanaland

BEST MARTIAL ARTS STUDIO
SPIDER MUAY THAI
Fountain Valley
spidermuaythai.net

BEST NATURE TRAIL
CRYSTAL CDVE
Newport Coast
crystalcovestatepark.org

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
IRVINE REGIDNAL PARK
Orange
ocparks.com/parks/irvine

BEST PLACE TO PLAY POOL
MISSIDN BAR
Santa Ana
missionbarsa.com

BEST PUB TRIVIA
4TH STREET MARKET
Santa Ana
4thstreetmarket.com/trivianight

BEST SPORTSCASTER
CHICK HEARN
nba.com/lakers/history/chickhearn

BEST SURF SPOT
THE WEDGE
Newport Beach
visitnewportbeach.com/beaches-and-parks/the-wedge/

BEST YOGA STUDIO
SPECTRA YDGA
Costa Mesa
spectrayoga.com

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714-436-0576

BEST OF 2018
Sports & Recreation

Best Bowling Alley
LINBROOK BOWL

When you say, "Fuck it; let's go bowling," go to Linbrook Bowl. Its Google-style architecture and beautiful neon sign imbue it with an old-school, *Big Lebowski*-esque charm, but the interior was recently renovated so mechanical glitches won't interfere with games. Open 24 hours, Linbrook Bowl is the perfect late-night hang-out spot. When you're done bowling, be sure to check out karaoke at the Kopa Room (a.k.a. Linbrook's bar).

"AFTER BURN" - LAURA LEYVA

201 S. Brookhurst St., Anaheim, (714) 774-2253, www.linbrookbowl.net.

READERS' CHOICE: FOREST LANES

Best Local Surfer(s)
KANOA IGARASHI AND COURTNEY CONLOGUE

After Huntington Beach locals Kanoa Igarashi and Courtney Conlogue swept the competition at the U.S. Open of Surfing, there was no choice but to declare a tie in this category. This year's victory marks the second time Conlogue won a U.S. Open, and the second year in a row that Igarashi took home the gold. As a kid, Conlogue would ride her bike 20 miles from her home in Santa Ana to surf the Huntington Beach break with her brother. She won her first U.S. Open at age 17 and went on to finish second in the World Surfing League (WSL) in 2015 and 2016. Igarashi's family immigrated to Huntington Beach from Japan while he was still a boy to give him the best shot at becoming a pro surfer. That decision paid off: At age 18, Igarashi became the youngest WSL pro.

Instagram: @courtneyconlogue and @kanoaigarashi

READERS' CHOICE: TYLER STARALARD

Best Pub Trivia
ALL-AMERICAN ALE WORKS

Do you like drinking? Do you have multiple trivia apps on your phone? Do you watch episodes of *Jeopardy* at the gym? If you answered yes to any of those questions, check out Trivia, Taps and Taco Tuesday at this Anaheim brewery. Hosted by Geeks Who Drink, the contest boasts categories that are varied enough to always be challenging, but you can usually have the satisfaction of coming through in the clutch with that random piece of trivia. Be sure to go with a team, as it's much more fun than arriving solo.

5120 E. La Palma Ave., Ste. 103, Anaheim, (657) 549-2140, allamericanaleworks.com

READERS' CHOICE: 4TH STREET MARKET

Best Neighborhood Park
TEWINKLE PARK

We all need to get out of the house occasionally and enjoy nature (even if that nature is manmade). Costa Mesa's TeWinkle Park has something for everyone: a great playground, a skate park, tennis courts, basketball courts and baseball fields. If you're looking to just relax in the outdoors, there are several walking trails, a small hill to climb and a duck-attracting lake that smells more like horses because of the fairgrounds' stables across the street.

970 Arlington Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 754-5223, www.costamesaca.gov/city-hall/city-departments/parks-and-community-services/map-of-city-parks/tewinkle-park

READERS' CHOICE: IRVINE REGIONAL PARK

Best Nature Trail
JEFFREY OPEN SPACE TRAIL

You can't deny the meticulously designed path parallel to Jeffrey Road, stretching from Portola Parkway to Trabuco. Depending on your mood or method of transportation, you'll discover both paved and dirt paths from which to choose. Well-lit at night, this scenic, 5-mile round-trip trail bypasses intersections with bridges and tunnels. Residents can utilize secure restrooms, water fountains and benches. Dog owners will definitely appreciate bag dispensers and an enclosed grassy area on the Portola end. If you're into local history, there's even spots along the trail that educate folks.

13252 Jeffrey Rd., Irvine, (949) 441-5874, www.cityofirvine.org/open-space-trails/jeffrey-open-space-trail

READERS' CHOICE: CRYSTAL COVE

Best Martial-Arts Studio
KINGS MMA

Owned by renowned master Rafael Cordeiro, Kings MMA is *the* place for top UFC fighters and amateurs alike to get their kicks in. Children, novices and professional fighters can train in Muy Thai, mixed martial arts and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu classes. Cordeiro says his teaching style emphasizes knowledge and philosophy just as much as technique and conditioning.

7391 Warner Ave., Huntington Beach, (714) 848-2525, kingsmma.com

READERS' CHOICE: SPIDER MUAY THAI

Best Day Trip
POTATO CHIP ROCK

Although Orange County hosts Disneyland, some of California's best beaches and the original *Real Housewives*, it's good to venture beyond the county lines every once in a while. Just a few hours away, San Diego's social-media sensation Potato Chip Rock awaits. Resembling a thin crisp atop a boulder, the natural construction attracts hikers who traverse steep, sharp trails to stand on it for selfies. Pro tip: Enjoy free street parking if you start your 4-mile hike from the back of Mount Hudson. Weekday parking is free at Lake Poway, though it's 10 bucks on weekends and holidays. Whenever you go, wear workout gear and bring a backpack and plenty of water.

14644 Lake Poway Rd., Poway, (858) 668-4772, poway.org/401/Lake-Poway

READERS' CHOICE: CATALINA ISLAND

Best Golf Course
SAN CLEMENTE MUNICIPAL GOLF CLUB

If you want the most proverbial bang

"CASABLANCA SURF": KATIE OLSON

for your golfing buck, as well as a well-conditioned, eminently playable and unreasonably seasonable course (temperatures rarely spike above 85 degrees, even as OC, as with the rest of the American Southwest, slides inexorably into the maws of climate-changed hell), you can't beat this one. It's owned by the city, which means green fees are cheap, topping out at $44 on Saturdays and Sundays or as low as $14 if you grab a super-twilight rate after 2:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m., depending on the time of the year. The links have more than stood the test of time, going on close to 80 years now. At 6,435 yards from the back tees, it's long enough to put your driver in play, but, as always, it's how you do around and on the greens that counts. There are also ocean views on several holes, and the course encourages walking—if you're one of *those*. That also factors into pace of play (think five hours when busy) sometimes being a drag, but that's why Buddha invented beverage carts, right?

150 E. Avenida Magdalena, San Clemente, (949) 361-8384. www.san-clemente.org/recreation-community/golf

READERS' CHOICE: PELICAN HILL

Best Gym
CLUB PILATES

It doesn't matter whether your goals are a vacation bod or marathon shape. You want results, and you don't want to pay the price down the line for putting your body under too much stress. Surprisingly, low-impact workouts can still produce a burn you can feel, thanks to those S&M-looking reformer machines at Club Pilates. Cardio Sculpt class is heart-pounding with jump boards, while a Reformer Flow session stretches like no other. It's the best of both worlds!

Various locations. www.clubpilates.com

READERS' CHOICE: AXIOMS FITNESS

Best Surf Spot
SALT CREEK BEACH

There are three areas from which you can takeoff into the water at Salt Creek Beach, which boasts waves for every kind of surfer. "The Point" tends to be more crowded and competitive, "Middles" (literally in the middle) can have strong waves but tends to take in the excess people from the crowds, and "Gravels" is best for bodyboarding. It is definitely a locals' spot, so make sure to respect those who have been riding its waves for decades. Amenities such as outdoor showers and bathrooms (which can be a blessing at some beaches) make surfing at Salt Creek Beach both enjoyable and convenient.

33333 Pacific Coast Hwy., Dana Point, (949) 923-2210

READERS' CHOICE: THE WEDGE

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www.shopstation17.com

Best of 2018 Sports & Recreation

Best Yoga Studio

YOGASAPIEN

Yoga is so much more than moving through sequences of sun salutations. It's a practice that can align your mind, body and spirit after you get the hang of it, making it one of the most potent forms of meditation. It's important to go to a yoga studio you jibe with, one that places emphasis on the connection to spirit through movement, so you'll get more out of the experience and transcend to the best version of yourself. That's why YogaSapien in Laguna Beach is so special. From super-sweaty power yoga to integrated sound-healing restorative and Yin yoga, the sessions are geared toward connecting to the self and experiencing meditation through motion. The classes are lead by specialists who help individuals grow in their practice

610 N. Coast Hwy., Ste. 208, Laguna Beach, (949) 416-3996, www.yogasapienlb.com

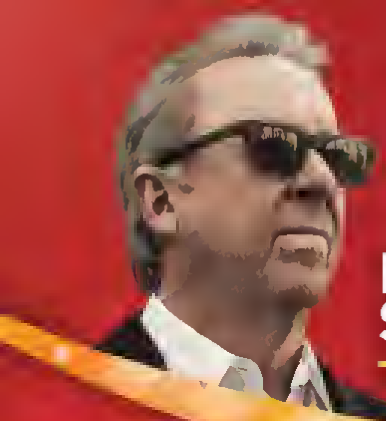
READERS' CHOICE: SPECTRA YOGA

Best Ducks Player

COREY PERRY

Forget the boring stats; we celebrate Perry this year for one of the funniest goals in recent hockey history. Time has erased the name of whatever team the Ducks were fighting in some game last season and when the goal happened. Perry wasn't even involved—not just not involved with the goal, but also, even though he was on the ice, not even involved with the game. What Perry was doing was punching a bunch of players who were sitting on their bench. Why? Because the players were blocking Perry from grabbing his stick, which had somehow landed at their feet. So, while the whole arena roared at the scene, which caused a major distraction on the ice, one of Perry's teammates snuck the puck into the net. It wouldn't have happened without Perry's notorious bad temper. For further evidence of this athlete's contribution to comedy, just type "Corey Perry is a Jerk" into a YouTube search and reach for the popcorn.

READERS' CHOICE: RYAN GETZLAF



BOZ SCAGGS
THIS FRI - OCT 18

CHRISTINA AGUILERA
OCT 24

LORD OF THE DANCE
DANGEROUS GAMES
OCT 26

RASCAL FLATTS
NOV 2

DIANA KRALL
NOV 3

J BALVIN
NOV 9

- NOV 17 PAULA ABDUL
- DEC 1 TONY ORLANDO & DAWN: A CHRISTMAS REUNION
- DEC 7 TONY BENNETT
- DEC 15 PAULINA RUBIO
- DEC 21 BRIAN SETZER ORCHESTRA'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY 'CHRISTMAS ROCKS!' TOUR

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& DRINK
BEST of 2018

VOTED
BEST
LIQUOR STORE,
WINE SHOP &
CRAFT BEER
SHOP
BEST OF
READERS' CHOICE
WINNER
OCWEEKLY
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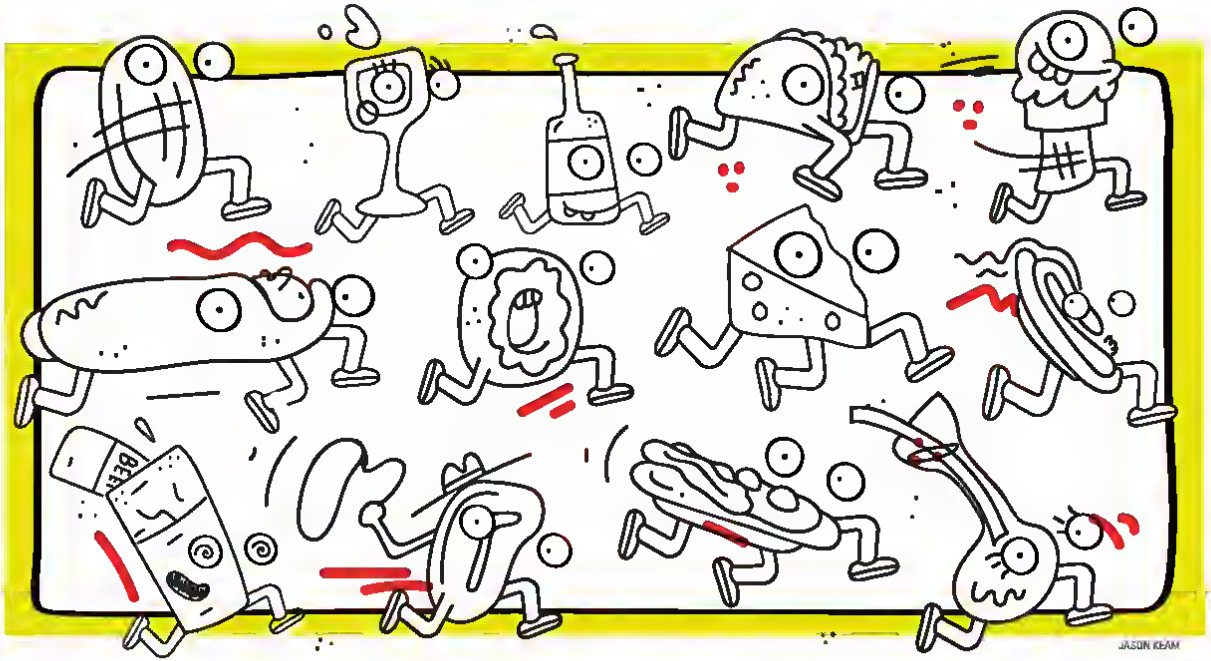


JASON KEAM

Best Gay Bar

SWEETWATER SALOON

Within Long Beach's "Gayborhood" along Broadway Boulevard, Sweetwater Saloon is considered one of the chillest, most relaxed watering holes. There are strong, cheap drinks, a good vibe, great happy-hour specials, friendly bartenders, and even free pool every week! Come by yourself or with your gaggle of cohorts either during the day for a midday refresher or at night to party within its spacious setting. It's cash only, but that's a decent tradeoff for drinks that barely cost the price of parking.

1201 E. Broadway, Long Beach, (562) 432-7044

READERS' CHOICE: TIN LIZZIE SALOON

Best Enchiladas

PANXA COCINA

New Mexico-style enchiladas are nowhere to be found in our beloved county, but thanks to Panxa Cocina in Long Beach, there's no need to hunger in despair. Chef Art Gonzalez's menu features Land of Enchantment favorites, with stacked enchiladas being the standout dish. Tortillas are layered, not rolled, and in between, you'll find choice meats such as short rib, chicken and pork. The enchiladas are then slathered in either red chimayó or hatch green salsa—or both when ordered Christmas-style. A fried egg on top is optional, but only if patrons want to cheat rather than treat themselves. Once pierced, the crown of yolk dribbles into every spicy bite, making for a truly enchanting enchilada experience.

3937 E. Broadway, Long Beach, (562) 433-7999, panxacocina.com

Best Dessert

SNOW MONSTER

Even among titans in the ice cream world, Snow Monster's macaron ice cream sandwich is a beast—we wouldn't blame you for tilting it sideways and eating it with a spoon. The blizzard of flavor starts with airy, scratch-made cookies with flavors such as churro, Oreo, and Cap N' Crunch, bookending a dense scoop of frozen flavor in any combination you choose. Our favorite is the churro macaron with horchata ice cream. Whether you're looking for simple flavors or bold pairings, there's no question this beloved OC chain will always do it right.

Various locations, snowmonsterec.com

READERS' CHOICE: LIGHY &

HEALTHY DESSERTS

Best Peruvian Restaurant

INKA CANTINA

The Incas obviously have a thing for potatoes, but Inka Cantina knows how to make a spud feel special. Wanna try them cold? The mashed-potato causas topped with fresh avocado and seafood are to die for. Tangy and crisp? Try the Ceviche Mixto, featuring fish marinated in a spicy lime juice with finely sliced onions and cilantro, it's served on a bed of lettuce, camote (sweet potatoes), potatoes and cancha (toasted corn). For dessert, hold the starch, but send in the sugar! The Choco-lucuma is a Peruvian sundae done right: a chocolate cupcake filled with milk caramel and served with rich lucuma ice cream. It's a traditional treat from the icy Andes that will warm your soul.

18279 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley, (714) 965-4600, www.inkacantina.com

READERS' CHOICE: INKA MAMA'S PERUVIAN RESTAURANT

Best Pizza

LAVENTINA'S BIG CHEESE PIZZA

True to its name, Laventina's has a dominantly cheesy taste that pizza-lovers will embrace. Its milky, mozzarella is nicely complemented by the slight sweetness of the dough and the freshness of the ingredients. The spot's cozy interior doesn't leave much room for patrons, sadly, takeout and delivery orders are a must. Laventina's also offers pasta, wings, ribs, subs and salads, but the siren song of its heavenly pizzas is what beckons us to that bright-yellow awning on Newport Boulevard. It's fantastic any time of the day, and if you don't scarf down every one of its New York-style slices at once, leftovers taste just as amazing the next day.

2819 Newport Blvd., Ste. B, Newport Beach, (949) 675-1980, laventinaspizza.com

READERS' CHOICE: TWO SAUCY BROADS

Best Ribs

SMOKING RIBS

Though there has been some stellar barbecue popping up in OC this past year, no one has unseated chef Kenny Tran, the quirky, passionate pitmaster at this

OC WEEKLY BEST OF 2018

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2018 BEST OF READERS' POLL
The following have been voted the best in the Food & Drink category.

BEST ACAI BOWLS
BAHZAI BOWLS
Multiple Locations
banzaibowls.com

BEST BAGELS
SHIRLEY'S BAGELS
Multiple Locations
shirleysbagels.com

BEST BAKERY
BLACKMARKET BAKERY
Multiple Locations
blackmarketbakery.com

BEST BAR FOR DANCING
MALARKY'S IRISH PUB
Newport Beach
malarkyspub.com

BEST BAR IN LONG BEACH
ALEX'S BAR
Long Beach
alexsbar.com

BEST BARBECUE
NEWPORT RIB CO.
Costa Mesa
nbcompany.com

BEST BARTENDER
RYAH AUTRY AT THE BLIHO PIG
Rancho Santa Margarita
theblindpigoc.com

BEST BEER
GOLOEH ROAO BREWIHG
Anaheim
goldenroad.la/anaheim

BEST BEER SELECTION/ CRAFT BEER BAR
THE BLIHO PIG KITCHEH AHO BAR
Rancho Santa Margarita
theblindpigoc.com

BEST BIKINI BAR
THE GREEH GIRL SALOOH
Westminster
thegreengirlsaloon.com

BEST BOBA
7 LEAVES CAFE
Multiple Locations
7leavescafe.com

BEST BREAKFAST
SHOOZE: AH A.M. EATERY
Multiple Locations
snoozeeatery.com

BEST BREAKFAST BURRITO
FARMER BOYS
Multiple Locations
farmerboys.com

BEST BRUNCH
TREVOR'S AT THE TRACKS
San Juan Capistrano
www.trevorsatthetracks.com

BEST BURGER
IH-H-OUT BURGER
Multiple Locations
in-n-out.com

BEST BURRITO
JIMBOY'S TACOS
Multiple Locations
jimboystacos.com

BEST CHEESE SHOP
THE CHEESE SHOP AT THE MIX
Costa Mesa
cheeseshopoc.com

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT
GOLOEH ORAGOH
Costa Mesa
cmgoldendragon.com

BEST COFFEE
PHILZ COFFEE
Multiple Locations
philzcoffee.com

BEST COFFEEHOUSE
KÉAH COFFEE
Multiple Locations
keancoffee.com

BEST COLD BREW
PORTOLA COFFEE ROASTERS
Multiple Locations
portolacoffeelab.com

BEST CRAFT BEER SHOP
HI-TIME WIHE CELLARS
Costa Mesa
hitimewine.net

BEST CRAFT COCKTAILS
THE BLIHO PIG KITCHEH AHO BAR
Rancho Santa Margarita
theblindpigoc.com

BEST CUPCAKE
SUSIECAKES
Multiple Locations
susiecakes.com

BEST DATE NIGHT
THE CELLAR
Fullerton
cellardining.com

BEST DAY-DRINKING BAR
STAG BAR + KITCHEH
Newport Beach
stagbar.com

BEST DELI
HOLLIHGSHEAO'S OELICATESSEH
Orange
hollingsheadsdeli.com

BEST DESSERT
LIGHT & HEALTHY OESSERTS
Irvine
lightandhealthydesserts.com

BEST DINER
HARBOR HOUSE CAFÉ
Multiple Locations
harborhousecafe.com

BEST DISTILLERY
BLIHKIHG OWL OISTILLERY
Santa Ana
blinkingowldistillery.com

BEST DIVE BAR
WILO GOOSE TAVERH
Costa Mesa
goosebar.com

BEST DOG-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT
LAZY OOG RESTAURAHT & BAR
Multiple Locations
lazydogrestaurants.com

BEST DOUGHNUT SHOP
SIOECAR OOUGHHUTS
Multiple Locations
sidecardoughnuts.com

BEST FARMERS MARKET
ORAHGE COUNTY MARKETPLACE
Costa Mesa
ocmarketplace.com

BEST FISH TACO
SLAPFISH
Multiple Locations
slapfishrestaurant.com

BEST FOOD HALL
AHAHEIM PACKIHG OISTRICT
Anaheim
anaheimpackingdistrict.com

BEST FOOD TRUCK
OOS CHIHOS
Multiple Locations
doschinos.com

BEST FOODIE EVENT
HEWPORT BEACH WIHE & FOOO FESTIVAL
Newport Beach
newportwineandfood.com

BEST FRENCH TOAST
TOAST KITCHEH + BAKERY
Costa Mesa
toastkitchenbakery.com

BEST FRIES
THE KROFT
Multiple Locations
thekroft.com

BEST FROZEN YOGURT
YOGURTLAHO
Multiple Locations
yogurt-land.com

BEST GAY BAR
TIH LIZZIE SALOOH
Costa Mesa
tinlizziesaloon.com

BEST GREEK RESTAURANT
APOLA GYRO GRILL
Irvine
eatapola.com

BEST HAPPY HOUR
THE ROOFTOP LOUHGE
Laguna Beach
rooftoplagunabeach.com

BEST HOT DOG/BRATS
WURSTHAUS
Santa Ana
wursthausdtsa.com

BEST ICE CREAM
AFTERS ICE CREAM
Multiple Locations
aftersicecream.com

BEST INDIAN RESTAURANT
TAHOOORI IHOIA CUISIHE
Santa Ana
indiacuisine.info

BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT
MAMA O'S ITALIAH KITCHEH
Newport Beach
mamadsnewport.com

BEST JAPANESE RESTAURANT
SUSHI ON FIRE
Huntington Beach
sushionfire.com

BEST JUICE/SMOOTHIE SHOP
NEKTER JUICE BAR
Multiple Locations
nekterjuicebar.com

BEST KOREAN BARBECUE
GEN KOREAN BBQ HOUSE
Multiple Locations
genkoreanbbq.com

BEST KOREAN RESTAURANT
MR. BBQ
Fullerton
mrbbqfullerton.com

BEST LATE-NIGHT DINING
HARBOR HOUSE CAFÉ
Multiple Locations
harborhousecafe.com

BEST LOBSTER ROLL
SLAPFISH
Multiple Locations
www.slapfishrestaurant.com

BEST LOCAL BREWERY
BOTTLE LOGIC BREWING
Anaheim
bottlelogic.com

BEST LOCAL IPA
GOLDEN ROAD BREWING
Anaheim
goldenroad.la/anaheim

BEST LOCAL SOUR BEERS
GUNWHALE ALES
Costa Mesa
gunwhaleales.com

BEST LOCAL WINERY
ORANGE COAST WINERY
Newport Beach
www.orangecoastwinery.com

BEST LOUNGE
THE CELLAR
Fullerton
cellardining.com

BEST MARGARITA
AVILA'S EL RANCHITO
Multiple Locations
avilaselranchito.com

BEST MEDITERRANEAN
H.B. PITA GRILL
Huntington Beach
hbpitagrill.com

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT
AVILA'S EL RANCHITO
Multiple Locations
avilaselranchito.com

BEST MICHELADAS
MISSION BAR
Santa Ana
missionbarsa.com

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, CENTRAL OC
MISSION BAR
Santa Ana
missionbarsa.com

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, COASTAL OC
STAG BAR + KITCHEN
Newport Beach
stagbar.com

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, NORTH OC
CHAPTER ONE: THE MODERN LOCAL
Santa Ana
chapteronetml.com

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, SOUTH OC
THE BLIND PIG KITCHEN AND BAR
Rancho Santa Margarita
theblindpigoc.com

BEST NEW LOCAL BREWERY
GOLDEN ROAD BREWING
Anaheim
goldenroad.la

BEST NEW RESTAURANT
PLAYA MESA
Costa Mesa
playamesa.com

BEST NONTRADITIONAL BURGER
TACO BURGER AT JIMBOY'S TACOS
Multiple Locations
jimboystacos.com

BEST OUTDOOR DINING
THE BEACHCOMBER
Newport Coast
Thebeachcombercafe.com

BEST OYSTERS
WATER GRILL
Costa Mesa
www.watergrill.com

BEST PANCAKES
FLAPPY JACK'S PANCAKE HOUSE
Orange
flappyjacks.com

BEST PERUVIAN RESTAURANT
INKA MAMA'S
Multiple Locations
inkamamas.com

BEST PHO
HUE OI VIETNAMESE CUISINE
Fountain Valley
hueoivietnamesecuisine.com

BEST PIE
POLLY'S PIES RESTAURANT & BAKERY
Multiple Locations
www.pollyspies.com

Westminster joint. His meats are smoked for 15-plus hours, and Tran's sauces are so good that servers had to stop putting out full bottles lest they walk away in someone's purse. The brisket is fatty, smoky and tender, but it's the ribs that truly shine: pork and beef varieties fall off the bone. Chewing is not really necessary, as the meats melt as soon as they hit your tongue. Flavorful on their own, these ribs are also an ideal vessel to lap up as much of the two irresistible, house-made sauces (one brown-sugar sweet; the other seriously spicy) as possible.

14211 N. Euclid St., Garden Grove, (714) 867-6057, www.thesmokingribs.com

READERS' CHOICE: NEWPORT RIB CO.

Best Neighborhood Bar, Central OC

THE HUDDLE

Sometimes it feels as if attracting hipsters is the only sport the bars in Costa Mesa are playing. But a proper divey, old-man experience lurks just around the corner from the CAMP and the Anti Mall, a place where darts, pool tables and dirt-cheap domestic beers still reign supreme. In a city tripping over itself to be the next big thing, the Huddle remains refreshingly unconcerned. Whether you're coming in to catch a football game or just hide from your family, this neighborhood joint's relaxed ambience is virtually the same as it was when it opened back in 1967—though the TVs are just a little nicer.

741 Baker St., Costa Mesa, (714) 540-0966

READERS' CHOICE: MISSION BAR

Best Lounge

THE FLING COCKTAIL LOUNGE

Dim lighting and red-vinyl seats? Check. Smoke-stained nekkid-lady, 1960s parlor paintings in gawdy gold frames (but still classy!)? Small stage filled with a reliable cast of has-beens, coulda-beens and Phil Shane? Take-no-shit bartenders and not a craft cocktail in sight? Yeah, this must be the place. The Fling Cocktail Lounge has been simultaneously classy-ing up and slumming down the far corner of a Stater Bros.-anchored shopping center for the past half a century, making it the perfect gathering spot for lounge lizards, barflys, retirees, local rockabilly legends and former French *Playboy* models (hi, Christine!).

2370 N. Tustin Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 547-8972

READERS' CHOICE: THE CELLAR

Best Punk-Rock Bar

MARTY'S ON NEWPORT

We really are living in bizarro-world. Who would have thought this former karaoke hotspot and middle-age makeout den in bland Tustin would become the local scene's punk-rock headquarters in 2018? Thanks to a change of ownership and the booking skills of Jeff Schuman (of the Observatory's ilk) and Mike Rause (manager of the legendary X), Marty's On Newport hosts punk legends at least one night a week. TSOL, the Dickies, DI, DRI, Agent Orange and more have all headlined recently. Shortly after opening this summer, it even hosted the Adolescents in what would turn out to be one of the final performances of the late homegrown hero Steve Soto. Talk about instantly writing your way into the OC punk-rock history books.

14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE SLIDEBAR ROCK-N-ROLL KITCHEN

Best Hot Dog

LITTLE RED WAGON CORN DOGS

Suck on this, Dole Whip! You can keep your pineapple-flavored frozen treat. The real star of the Disneyland concession world is the CORN DOG. Six inches of all-American beef, coming in hot and fast to stick straight in your pie hole. Is a corn dog really considered a hot dog? Don't be a communist: of course it is. It's a hot dog in a winter coat—a delicious, crispy, 2-inch-thick, batter-y goodness winter coat. Trust us. It'll fix yer (little red) wagon!

1313 Disneyland Dr., Anaheim
disneyland.disney.go.com

READERS' CHOICE: WURSTHAUS

Best Neighborhood Bar, Coastal OC

JOHNNY'S SALOON

This Huntington Beach institution calls itself "Orange County's Twisted Cheers," and it's a reference that works. Though known as the punk-rock bar or the veterans' bar or the bar where someone brought in a pet alligator on a leash and it made the local news, at heart, Johnny's Saloon is all about community. Whether

you don liberty spikes as your primary hairstyle or you fought for the liberty of our nation on a tour of duty, you'll be welcomed warmly at this Disneyland of dive bars. After only a few visits, the bartenders will not only remember your drink order (whether you dig a Genesee tall boy, a Michter's neat or a soda water, splash of Coke), but they'll give you a sassy nickname, too, like Howdy Doody or Hellcat or Bruno. Cheers!

17471 Beach Blvd., Huntington Beach, (714) 848-0676, johnnyssaloonhb.wordpress.com

READERS' CHOICE: STAG BAR + KITCHEN

Best Sushi
OHSHIMA SUSHI

Whatever Ohshima Sushi may lack in seating, it more than makes up for in selection of high-quality, fresh, sashimi-grade fish. You won't find cream cheese or deep-fried rolls here; if you're looking for a Tokyo-style sushi experience in Orange County, Ohshima's your place. Call between 5 and 5:30 nightly to make a limited seating reservation, or you'll be hanging out front for close to an hour. But even that won't be so bad, when the fresh fatty tuna hits your tongue, any annoyance you may have experienced while waiting will melt away just as quickly as the toro does.

1956 N. Tustin St., Orange, (714) 998-8098, ohshimasushi.com

READERS' CHOICE: SUSHI OH FIRE

"SUSHI NEKO" -DANNY RAMIREZ

Best Bar for Dancing
TOTALLY 80'S BAR & GRILLE

Miss the Moonwalk? Having flashbacks of *Flashdance*? Wish you could do the worm again? Then grab your MC Hammer parachute pants and do the Running Man over to Fullerton's Totally 80's Bar & Grille for a weekly party of the wackiest dances from the 1980s. Pull up your leg warmers and let your feet get loose to the sounds of synthesizers, smooth power ballads and Cyndi Lauper.

2512 W. Orangethorpe Ave., Fullerton, (714) 879-0108, www.totally80sbar.com

READERS' CHOICE: MALARKY'S IRISH PUB

Best Mexican Restaurant
TACO MARÍA

As the food fates willed it, Taco María carries the eternal honor of being the last Restaurant of the Year written up by Jonathan Gold. The poetic *Los Angeles Times* critic suddenly passed away in July, but not before praising chef Carlos Salgado in April, noting he treated tortillas with a "seriousness familiar to any fanatical French baker." Of course, Gold was right. And as he also knew, there's more to the Costa Mesa restaurant than its transcendent tortillas. Last Christmas season, Taco María offered tamales of the rajas, pork and strawberry variety that were worth every bite of their $72-per-dozen price. The blue masa came from non-GMO corn in Mexico, just a taste of the ethics behind every menu item. Salgado pensively reflects on the meaning of all his dishes. Mainstays such as agua-chile remain phenomenal, as do the tacos. For *norteñeros*, there's no better way to remember Gold's legacy within county lines than to dine at Taco María in his honor.

3313 Hyland Ave., Costa Mesa, (714) 538-1444, www.tacomaria.com.

READERS' CHOICE: AVILA'S EL RANCHITO

Best Breakfast
PAUL'S PANTRY

Few places can rival the service and food offered at Paul's Pantry. The egg scrambles have great names such as the Popeye Scramble, and the dousings of cheese and meat on omelets such as the Canadian certainly help them live up to their titles. But by far the best thing offered at Paul's is the cinnamon roll: gigantic, crisp, chewy, and absolutely slathered with liquid sugar, butter and other heart-stopping sweets. Brilliantly, it's available as a side to nearly everything on the menu.

27409 Bellogente, Mission Viejo, (949) 364-1088

READERS' CHOICE: SRDDZE: AR A.M. EATERY

Best Deli
CORTINA'S

A staple for Italian foodies in OC since opening its doors in 1963, Cortina's offers fresh ingredients and the best traditional-

BEST PIZZA
TWO SAUCY BROADS
Fullerton
www.twosaucybroadspizza.com

BEST POKE
NORTH SHORE POKE CO.
Multiple Locations
www.northshorepokeco.com

BEST PUB
MALARKY'S IRISH PUB
Newport Beach
www.malarkyspub.com

BEST PUNK ROCK BAR
SLIDEBAR ROCK-N-ROLL KITCHEN
Fullerton
www.slidebarfullerton.com

BEST RAMEN
SHIN-SEN-GUMI HAKATA RAMEN
Fountain Valley
shinsengumigroup.com

BEST RESTAURANT
HUE OI VIETNAMESE CUISINE
Fountain Valley
www.hueoivietnamesecuisine.com

BEST RESTAURANT AMBIANCE
THE CELLAR
Fullerton
cellardining.com

BEST RIBS
NEWPORT RIB CO.
Costa Mesa
nbcompany.com

BEST ROCK CLUB
THE COACH HOUSE
San Juan Capistrano
thecoachhouse.com

BEST ROOFTOP BAR
THE ROOFTOP LOUNGE
Laguna Beach
rooftoplagunabeach.com

BEST SANDWICH
PHILLY'S BEST
Multiple Locations
www.eatphillysbest.com

BEST SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
SLAPFISH
Multiple Locations
www.slapfishrestaurant.com

BEST SPORTS BAR
YARD HOUSE
Multiple Locations
www.yardhouse.com

BEST STEAK
RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE
Multiple Locations
www.ruthschris.com

BEST SUSHI
SUSHI OH FIRE
Multiple Locations
sushiohfire.com

BEST TACO
JIMBOY'S TACOS
Multiple Locations
jimboystacos.com

BEST TACO TUESDAY
AVILA'S EL RANCHITO
Multiple Locations
avilaselranchito.com

BEST THAI RESTAURANT
THAI HAKORN
Multiple Locations
www.thaihakornonline.com

BEST VEGAN RESTAURANT
SEABIRDS KITCHEN
Costa Mesa
www.seabirdskitchen.com

BEST VIETNAMESE ICED COFFEE
HUE OI VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT
Fountain Valley
www.hueoivietnamesecuisine.com

BEST VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT
HUE OI VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT
Fountain Valley
www.hueoivietnamesecuisine.com

BEST WAFFLES
CHICKEN AND WAFFLES AT MACALLAN'S PUBLIC HOUSE
Brea
www.macallanspubbrea.com

BEST WATERFRONT DINING
DUKE'S HUNTINGTON BEACH
Huntington Beach
www.dukeshuntington.com

BEST WHISKEY BAR
MACALLAN'S PUBLIC HOUSE
Brea
www.macallanspubbrea.com

BEST WINE BAR
SEALEGS WINE BAR
Huntington Beach
www.sealegswinebar.com

BEST WINE SHOP
HI-TIME WINE CELLARS
Costa Mesa
www.hitimewine.net

BEST WINGS
SURF DOG'S SPORTS GRILL
Huntington Beach
www.surfdogshb.com

style deli meats to generations of loyal customers. If you're hungry and on the go, a hearty meatball sub from the to-go counter and a cannoli from the deli next door is the way to go.

2175 W. Orange Ave., Anaheim, (714) 535-1948, corlinasitalianfood.com

READERS' CHOICE: HOLLINGSHEAD DELICATESSEN

Best Fries
LUPE'S MEXICAN EATERY

Picture this. You're deep in the heart of Dana Point, high off your dome after a king-sized blunt and in desperate need of french fries loaded with extras. A genie appears in the haze of your hot-boxed Toyota Yaris and says, "Get the stoner fries from Lupe's Mexican Eatery." Fry purists will hate, but the pile of spuds covered with carne asada, guac, shrimp, two over-easy eggs, bacon and cotija cheese on top of a warm flour tortilla is better than any other.

33621 Del Obispo St., Ste. F, Dana Point, (949) 558-5431, www.eatlupes.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE KROFT

Best Happy Hour
P.F. CHANG'S

For your next happy-hour craving, we recommend grabbing a $4 plate of four pan-fried pork dumplings and a Chang's Mai Tai. We know it's a national chain, and we usually shy away from such options, but we also know all the ingredients at P.F. Chang's are prepared in-house, including the ginger beer for the moscow mule. (Full disclosure: We have an inside source.) Besides, who can resist $4 dumplings?

Multiple locations, www.pfchangs.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE ROOFTOP LOUNGE

Best Italian Food
ANGELO'S AND VINCI'S RISTORANTE

The building itself dates back to the early 1900s, and the dining hall is decorated to resemble a city square in the Italian countryside, complete with statues of "neighbors" hanging out on verandas, watching over you as you devour a plate of lasagna larger than your small intestine. That chunk of lasagna will take two days to finish, and it's definitely worth it.

550 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton, (714) 879-4022, www.angelosandvincis.com

READERS' CHOICE: MAMA D'S ITALIAN KITCHEN

Best Korean Barbecue
BYUL OAEPO/STAR BBQ

Make sure to wear your stretchy pants here! There's enough high-quality brisket, spicy pork belly and short rib to give yourself the meat sweats. The AYCE deal runs you about $20 with a drink, and the soft-serve ice cream is free—if you can manage to eat another bite.

8295 W. Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove, (714) 530-5388, byuldaepo.com

READERS' CHOICE: GEN KOREAN BBQ

Best Late-Night Dining
CORKY'S HOMESTYLE KITCHEN & BAKERY

After a long night of binge drinking, you want to go where portion size is of the utmost importance. Corky's Homestyle Kitchen & Bakery has massive five-egg omelets and pancakes the size of 20-inch rims—no exaggeration. Best of all, it's open 24/7 and serves breakfast foods all day, so you can binge any time.

27522 Antonio Pkwy., Ladera Ranch, (949) 364-4439, www.corkyskitchenandbakery.com

READERS' CHOICE: HARBOR HOUSE CAFE

Best Neighborhood Bar, South OC
THE BLIND PIG KITCHEN AND BAR

Offering an ever-evolving menu of craft cocktails and comfortable lounge seating overlooking Rancho Santa Margarita Lake, the Blind Pig is the best place to have awkward encounters with high-school friends you hoped you'd never see again. Drink away the memories on Tiki Taco Tuesday, for which the chefs come up with a surprising new spin on tacos each week.

31431 Santa Margarita Pkwy., Rancho Santa Margarita, (949) 888-0072, www.theblindpigoc.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE BLIND PIG KITCHEN AND BAR

Best Sandwich
BIG O TO GO

Don't be fooled by the store's tiny size: Big O has been serving up the best meatball sub in the Western Hemisphere since the 1970s. The fist-sized meatballs, rich pomodoro sauce and thick helping of mozzarella make this sandwich unforgettable.

24501 Marguerite Pkwy., Mission Viejo, (949) 586-6660

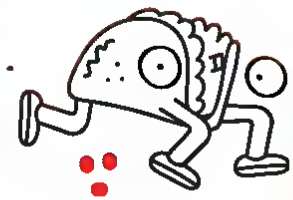
READERS' CHOICE: PHILLY'S BEST

Best Taco Tuesday
AVILA'S EL RANCHITO

We're gluttons for AYCE foods, especially when the deal involves tacos. Avila's has been a SoCal staple since Salvador Avila opened his first restaurant 50 years ago in Huntington Park. All the other locations—around a dozen—are scattered throughout OC, but the only one to offer a $5 AYCE taco Tuesday is in Newport Beach. Now all you have to decide is chicken or beef?

2800 Newport Blvd., Newport Beach, (949) 675-6855, avilaselranchito.com

READERS' CHOICE: AVILA'S EL RANCHITO



JASON KEAM

Best Waffles
ROSCOE'S HOUSE OF CHICKEN AND WAFFLES

We're opening ourselves up to a world of criticism by saying that Roscoe's House of Chicken and Waffles has the best waffles in OC. To all those critics, here's our middle finger. Roscoe's cinnamon-sugar waffles are 10 times better than their world-famous chicken. Add a fresh coat of maple syrup and butter to the mix, and you have the best waffle in OC.

2110 Harbor Blvd., Anaheim, (714) 823-4130, www.roscoeschickenandwaffles.com

READERS' CHOICE: MACALLANS PUBLIC HOUSE

Best Breakfast Burrito
S'WICH BISTRO

We can sum up this handheld marvel in two words: candied bacon. In an unexpected move from its salty counterparts, the merger of sausage and house-glazed meat take this breakfast to the next level. Every bite is consistently delicious and full of potatoes, cheese and meaty goodness. Pico de gallo is the condiment of choice, but you can always heat things up at S'wich's hot-sauce bar.

16277 Laguna Canyon Rd., Irvine, (949) 753-0227, www.swichbistro.com

READERS' CHOICE: FARMER BOYS

Best Farmers' Market
LAGUNA HILLS CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET

Offering the practicality of a weekly market in a modest setup, this freeway-accessible location makes Laguna Hills our hands-down favorite. Friday mornings are relocated by the old Macy's thanks to construction, but that doesn't stop regulars from sampling super-fresh produce or making purchases from such reliable vendors as 5 Bar Beef. A winning combination of plentiful parking and a user-friendly layout adds to the small, yet mighty reputation of this certified market. Shoppers can get knives sharpened while picking up goods from Old Town Baking, choosing a flower bouquet and trying on hats to shade themselves while munching on street fare from Tacos el Bochito.

El Toro Road and Avenida de la Carlota, Laguna Hills, (949) 301-9180

READERS' CHOICE: OC MARKETPLACE

Best Food Hall
4TH STREET MARKET

Santa Ana's collection of specialized concepts is a balance of delicious and functional. Need coffee? Portola's got your back, front and center at the main entrance. Wanna take some beef home to grill? Pughisi's Electric City Butcher is 4th Street's answer to Sam on *The Brady Bunch*. Of course, don't miss out on OG *lonchera* Dos Chinos or newer tenants such as Jinny's Pizzeria or Falasophy. Do your taste buds a favor and enjoy your food with one of Alta Baja's micheladas, and all is good in the 'hood.

201 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (714) 486-0700, www.4thstreetmarket.com

READERS' CHOICE: ANAHEIM PACKING HOUSE

Best Brunch

THE CANNERY

A classic mealtime with OC upgrades, Cannery's Sunday Funday is the proper mix of breakfast, lunch and mandatory booze. Easygoing bites include guac with salt-and-vinegar tostadas or Greek yogurt with honeycomb and French vanilla granola. Hearty appetites may want a Lady Larkin Burger made from ground short rib, while hardcore brunch types will debate the Maine Lobster Benedict vs. Crystal Maple Fried Chicken with a Cheddar waffle and fried egg. Chef Philip's personal nod is the Kamayan board of Filipino barbecue meats with garlic rice. Kick back on the patio for harbor views, or pull up dockside if you've got the yacht.

3010 Lafayatta Rd., Newport Beach, (949) 566-0060, www.cannarynewport.com

READERS' CHOICE: TREVOR'S AT THE TRACKS

Best Restaurant Ambiance

HABANA

Old-world charm accented by opulent details embodies the Cuban vibe at Costa Mesa's counterpart. Vintage televisions play a sepia-hued loop, while lush greenery breathes life throughout. Gaze upward at the marvelously ornate and oversized chandelier. Habana's glassware game is so on point we want to accidentally place a goblet in our purse. Bonus points for the most stylish brunch setup in OC.

708 Spectrum Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 419-0100, www.rastauranthabana.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE CELLAR

Best Rooftop Bar

HIVE & HONEY

As corporate as it sounds, the place to be in Irvine is within a Marriott. More specifically, head to the top level of the resort company's newest property at Irvine Spectrum. Navigate the computer-driven lobby elevators to your destination, and be rewarded with a spacious lounge. Oversized lamps and flowing tunes transport you to an urban, almost nightclub vibe as the evening continues. Small bites tide you over, but here, it's all about the views and bar program. Despite the sweet theme, expect a balanced selection of cocktails with tongue-in-cheek aliases.

7905 Irvine Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 759-0200, www.marriott.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE ROOFTOP LOUNGE

Best Acai Bowls

BERRY BRAND

A DIY that rivals the rest in quality and service, Berry Brand helps you assemble the rare sighting of food that manages to both look and taste delightful. A 12-ounce serving is plenty, but you can order up to 24 ounces if you dare. Choose between an organic acai or pitaya base, then pile on the rest. Warm chia pudding and a quartet of crunchy granola options give extra texture, fruit makes you feel all healthy. Make sure to get a final drizzle of nut butter with those unlimited toppings before taking the 'gram.

2493 Park Ave., Ste. 38, Tustin, www.loveberrybrand.com

READERS' CHOICE: RANZAI BOWLS

Best Neighborhood Bar, North OC

THE CAULDRON SPIRITS & BREWS

A tavern of incantations and libations, the Cauldron gives Goth kids, Harry Potter enthusiasts and locals a haunt to call their own. The witch-themed ambiance masterfully created by owner Lara Hanneman is playfully eerie. A green eye suddenly appears in a mirror above a cauldron with none able to escape its creepy gaze. At the bar, patrons will find drinks such as Bourbon & Brimstone, Wizard's Cup, and the Raven Claw. The Knotty Kid transforms a fluff of boysenberry cotton candy into a sweet vodka drink, a fitting feat for the Cauldron. Even though the bar is better known for its brooding brews, it also boasts a fine kitchen. There's always French comfort food to share with one's coven. But a rotating menu of specialty sliders, from Navajo tacos to Cordon Bleu delights, keep things delicious. Stay past the witching hour, if you dare!

8028 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, (714) 484-2733, www.thecauldronbar.com

READERS' CHOICE: CHAPTER ONE. THE MODERN LOCAL

OCWEEKLY BEST OF 2018

October 5 & 6, 12 & 13, 19 & 20
6 p.m. – midnight • Admission: $10
Great food and beer, live Oom Pah Pah Band, contests, prizes, tribute bands and a live DJ!
Fairplex.com/Oktoberfest

Best Churros
OON CHURROS

These days, churros are curved into ice cream cups and coated with Fruity Pebbles to up their decadent looks for Instagram. While these takes may be tasty enough, nothing beats a simple *el tradicional* at Don Churros in Anaheim. The busy food truck in a parking lot by the 5 freeway prepares churros according to a decades-old family recipe from the highlands of Jalisco. The dough is shaped into twirling *roscas* (the OG loops) when it meets the sizzling oil of the deep fryer. From there, they're diced into stems topped with brown sugar that crinkle upon first bite. The novelty treat here is the namesake Don Churro, a stout snack that folks can order with *cajeta* and vanilla bean ice cream stuffed inside. Best of all, Don Churros bumps a righteous playlist of regional Mexican classics and bass-rattling funk for all who await its treats.

1475 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, (714) 717-7746, www.donchurrosgomez.com

Best Indian Restaurant
ANNAPOORNA

Tucked in a hidden corner of a large Irvine shopping mall, Annapoorna otherwise stands out for its satiating South Indian cuisine. Before taking on main courses, starters set the tone. The southern-spiced, delectable Chicken 65 is the perfect clash of flavors, with lime-drenched chicken chunks turning up the fiery heat. Dosas come out of the kitchen resembling giant crepe clubs ready to whack hungry appetites into submission. When dinner finally arrives, a bowl full of tamarind rice is the perfect companion to dishes such as the brightly colored chicken tikka masala and the darker-toned andhra chicken curry. Annapoorna also offers Indo-Chinese fare and a great lunchtime buffet for less than $11 during the workweek.

14450 Culver Dr., Ste. A, Irvine, (949) 651-1144, www.myannapoorna.com

READERS' CHOICE: TANDOORI INDIA CUISINE

Best Buffet
TEXAS DE BRAZIL

Cheesy bread and plantains are mouthwatering Brazilian teasers already on your table, but keep your eyes on the AYCE prize. Picanha (try the garlic version) is the house favorite, with alcatra close behind. Gauchos roam the dining room, checking to see if your marker is flipped to green for GO. Depending on the cut, they're fine with slicing to whatever doneness you're comfortable with. Texas de Brazil doesn't shy away from seasoning its meats, so mix it up with visits to the hot/salad bar. The lobster bisque is addictive, but the seafood spread with tabbouleh and couscous helps make the dent in our wallet worth it.

13772 Jamboree Rd., Irvine, (949) 209-1500, texasdebrazil.com

Best Juice/Smoothie Spot
NATURAL

In East Anaheim, *raza* know how to eat healthy. It's not just the Northgate Market on State College that channels its inner Whole Foods. Down the street lies Natural, a fruit parlor and ice cream shop offering a refreshing menu of juices and smoothies perfect for OC's year-long summer weather (*Gracias*, global warming!). Send some fresh oranges, apples, grapes and bananas to the juice blender for thirst quenching. For smoothie-lovers, Natural offers specialties not to be missed, especially the chamoyada. A *saladitos*-coated straw plunges into the red-and-yellow swirl of sweet and spicy. Leave *Yamba Yuice* behind and make *Natural* (say it in Spanish!) the must-stop shop for all your juice and smoothie needs.

1177 S. State College Blvd., Ste. Z, Anaheim, (714) 563-1343, www.facebook.com/NaturalAH

READERS' CHOICE: NEKTER JUICE BAR

Best Cupcake
SUSIECAKES

Everyone's inner child remains unconcerned with whether cupcakes are still

"BRAIN FREEZE" – BERNICE ORTEGA

considered trendy or not. The feeling of peeling back a paper holder and exposing the frosting and fluff to take that first bite never goes out of style. The bakery continues blessing dessert-lovers with an array of confections baked to perfection, enticing your sweet tooth with red velvet, chocolate mint and fluffy coconut. What better way to celebrate the small occasions in life than with SusieCakes' moist, buttercream-topped decadence?

3313 Hyland Ave., Ste. J, Costa Mesa, (714) 265-2253, also at 25473 Rancho Niguel Rd., Ste. B, Laguna Niguel, (949) 214-2253 and 2043 Westcliff Dr., Ste. 104, Newport Beach, (949) 646-6081, www.susiecakes.com

READERS' CHOICE: SUSIECAKES

Best Nontraditional Burger

TOWER 48

A neon sign inside this "Modern Beach Deli" proclaims, "Best Buns on the Beach," and the airy ciabatta version framing the very tasty Vegan Burger makes you a believer. You don't have to swear off cow or gluten to also appreciate the vegan, gluten-free burger's minced red onions, flavor-packed slice of heirloom tomato, diced house pickles that more resemble cucumbers than Vlasics, generous slather of Vegenaise that you'll swear is regular mayo, and a gooey vegan cheese slice that melts like Velveeta and tastes like fat-free Cheddar. But the star of this show is the mock meat from Redwood City's Impossible Foods, it's juicy, crumbly and charred right down to the grill marks.

4525 W. Coast Hwy., Newport Beach, (949) 432-5858, www.tower48newportbeach.com

READERS' CHOICE: JIMROY'S TACOS

Best Food Truck

LOBSTA TRUCK

Whenever you pull up to a venue or event and see the red truck with white silhouettes of lobsters on the side, you know it's going to be a good day, even if the live music/outdoor market/whatever brought you sucks. After a road trip of sampling and critiquing lobster rolls from several shacks along Maine's coast, Lobsta Truck's owners figured out what works best, and then realized, if done right, the perfect shack could do every bit as well on the Left Coast as taco joints. Since West Coast shacks are now on wheels, Lobsta Truck put it in drive and soon added crab rolls, chowder and Cape Cod chips. The Irvine Spectrum and the Orange County fairgrounds are among its regular haunts, but you can catch it all over OC and Long Beach.

www.lobstatruck.com

READERS' CHOICE: DOS CRIROS

Best Local Winery

LAGUNA CANYON WINERY

Orange County is not exactly a great region for growing grapes, and as with other vintners in the same predicament, Laguna Canyon Winery imports its purple and white fruits from Central and Northern California points known and loved worldwide. Once here, the small operator can give the grapes the attention they deserve during the blending and other production processes to create small batches of fruit-forward elixirs. If Napa or Sonoma or Bordeaux don't immediately spring to mind as you sip in Laguna Canyon Winery's tasting room, heck, at least you're enjoying that glass in beautiful Laguna Canyon and not some faceless strip mall.

133 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-9463, www.lagunacanyonwinery.com

READERS' CHOICE: ORANGE COAST WINERY

Best Japanese Restaurant

HONOA-YA

When Honda-Ya opened its doors in Tustin 25 years ago, it popularized the term "izakaya" in OC and proved that Japanese cuisine wasn't limited to teriyaki and sushi. Its success inspired a mini-izakaya boom a few years ago, but none of the new entrants rose to Honda-Ya's glorious levels. As it branched out with locations as far out as Little Tokyo, the original remains the landmark—a stone monument in the middle of a city on fast-forward. The tatami room still requires you to take off your shoes. The paper lanterns continue to wobble whenever a breeze is let in from the open door. The menu remains exhaustively completist, a Wikipedia of Japanese ingredients and cooking methods that grows week by week. You can have just about everything here, from sticks of yakitori roasted over white-hot coals to the kooky, mucilaginous charms of the fermented-soybean delicacy known as natto. Heck, there's even teriyaki and sushi, if you're so inclined.

556 El Camino Real, Tustin, (714) 832-0081, www.izakayahondaya.com

READERS' CHOICE: SUSHI OR FIRE

Best Poke

COSTCO

In Hawaii, every supermarket on every island has a poke deli in the back. It's an essential extension of the fish and seafood department. One of the best happens to be Costco's. A few years ago, sensing a budding appreciation of poke in Southern

California, the Costco at the District in Tustin began offering the very same poke the Hawaii warehouses did. But now that poke bere has evolved into build-your-own-Franken-bowl assembly-line joints that exist on every street corner, what Costco offers has not only been the most consistent poke in Orange County, but it has also become the unwitting bulwark of what OG poke is supposed to taste like: fresh, vibrant, raw fish marinated into sweet, sweet sea candy with just a few essential flavors such as shoyu, lime, wasabi and a spicy mayo.

2700 Park Ave., Tustin, (714) 338-1933, www.costco.com

READERS' CHOICE: ROKTA SHORE POKE CO.

Best Pub

THE HARP INN

For more than 30 years, this local institution has provided a little slice of Ireland just a four-leaf clover's throw from one of the busiest stretches of roadway in America (Newport Boulevard between Pacific Coast Highway and 19th Street). Go for the people-watching; stay for the Harp, Guinness and Smithwick's on tap, as well as the beans and toast, fish and chips, and bangers and mash coming from the kitchen. The Harp's annual St. Patrick's Day blowout brings top-quality musical acts and yes, of course, green beer. Just know going in it's a standing-room-only affair that generally begins around noon, so if you want a seat, your best bet is to come early for the traditional Irish breakfast, which you'll need to sop up the shots and red ales to follow.

130 E. 17th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 646-8855, www.harpinn.com

READERS' CHOICE: MALARKY'S IRISH PUB

Best Craft Beer Shop

WINDSOR HOMEBREW SUPPLY

Scott Windsor curates a beer selection like Dr. Dre curates beats. He likes 'em fresh, funky and worthy of a little head-bobbin'. Although the selection and hours are tight, Windsor offers specials nobody else does (not just Pliny!). He doesn't hold beers for homies, so everyone gets a good crack at landing something rare and delicious. Can't find it? Buy a homebrew kit and make it yourself.

743 Baker St., Ste. O, Costa Mesa, (714) 668-9850, windsorhomebrewsupply.com

READERS' CHOICE: HI-TIME WINE CELLARS

Best Craft Cocktails

320 MAIN

On the sleepy beachside street at 320 Main in Seal Beach, owners Jason and Rebecca Schiffer started making the cocktails that brought the craft-cocktail movement to OC. It's no surprise this is where bartenders go for inspiration. Our mouths are still both agape and watering from the Pappy Baby Monkey Old Fashioned, which uses Pappy's Old Rip Van Winkle 10-year syrup. Come on Tiki Tuesday nights and show off your floral outfits while sipping all the rums.

320 Main St., Seal Beach, (562) 799-6246, www.320mainsealbeach.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE BLIND PIG KITCHEN AND BAR

Best Beer Selection

BEACHWOOD BBQ

The award-winning house beers pair really well with the house barbecue. Served in proper glassware for just about any beer style, there's guest taps, a great bottle list and dual temp-draft zones. Staff cicerones help you pick what to drink, and keep you informed of special events such as Pliny the Younger and Zwanze Day.

131 Main St., Seal Beach, (562) 493-4500, also at 210 E. Third St., Long Beach, (562) 436-4020, beachwoodbbq.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE BLIND PIG KITCHEN AND BAR

Best New Local Brewery

TAPS BREWERY & BARREL ROOM

Sure, TAPS has been making beers in OC since 1999, but its brand-new brewery in Tustin checks all the boxes of what a truly great tasting-room experience should be. Starting with award-winning beer, the brewery is an oasis of indoor and outdoor spaces with a great mix of games, a TAPS-run food truck, and even a cozy firepit to snuggle by.

15501 Red Hill Ave., Tustin, (657) 247-3920, www.tapsbrewery.com.

READERS' CHOICE: GOLDEN ROAD BREWING

Best Local Brewery

GUNWHALE ALES

Gunwhale's beers tap into the locale terroir of what makes OC great: our 42 miles of beautiful coastline. Its ability to shine a prism on common beer styles such as the IPA and Saison and fill a portfolio with brews that are so full of personality is astounding. The IPAs are soft and hazy, dank West Coast, or dry and brutey; the wild IPA is foeder-aged with expressive trois yeast. On the Saison side, it's a rainbow trip into what beer is capable of becoming.

2960 Randolph Ave., Ste. A, Costa Mesa, (949) 239-9074, www.gunwhaleales.com

READERS' CHOICE: BOTTLE LOGIC BREWING

Best Distillery

BLINKING OWL DISTILLERY

Take one step into their Santa Ana tasting room, and you'll know why Blinking Owl Distillery is in the who's-who of spirits in OC. It's not just one of the grooviest spaces (there are literally owls everywhere!), but it's also where distiller Ryan Friesen crafts some mad spirits on the gorgeous hybrid copper still named "Bastian Penelope Coco Frigalicious." Word is owners Brian and Robin Christenson will be adding food to the list of curated cocktails, which are incredibly balanced and Instagrammable despite only using native spirits and raw inspiration.

802 E. Washington Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 852-3947, blinkingowldistillery.com

READERS' CHOICE: BLINKING OWL DISTILLERY

Best Local IPA

GREEN CHEEK BEER CO.

What happens when local IPA wizard Evan Price blends the lupulin powers of Citra, Mosaic and Simcoe hops into a beer? "Wingardium Lupulosa!" he yells, casting a spell on the brew kettle. The resulting Radiant Beauty is the No. 2 West Coast IPA in the world, as voted at the 2018 World Beer Cup.

2294 N. Batavia St., Ste. C, Orange, (714) 998-1172, www.greencheekbeer.com

READERS' CHOICE: GOLDEN ROAD BREWING

Best Local Sour Beer

BRUERY TERREUX

It was cool to watch Bruery Terreux win silver at the Great American Beer Festival in 2017 with the sour, funky Tart to Beerset. But when it won gold at the 2018 World Beer Cup, we had to see what the most distinguished set of judges in the world saw. It's a Belgian lambic-style beer with a bit of heft and a nice round body layered on French Sauvignon Blanc oak barrels. Ooh, la la ... the funk is exquisite!

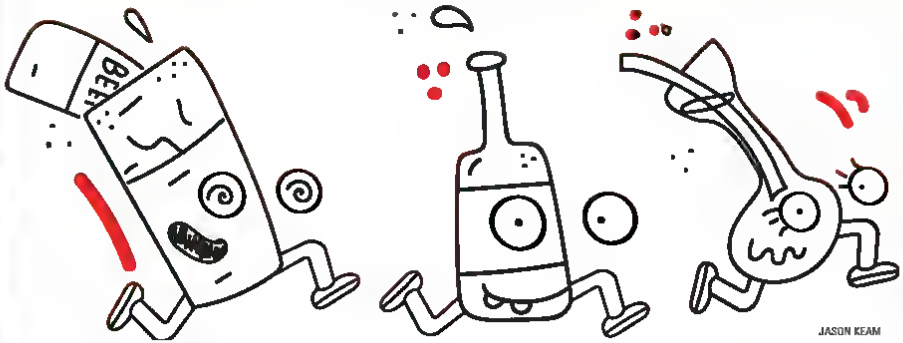
1174 N. Grove St., Anaheim, (714) 905-7361, www.brueryterreux.com

READERS' CHOICE: GUNWHALE ALES

Best Signature Cocktail

VACA

Sitting at Vaca's bar listening to the frozen slushie maker hum, we had no idea what kind of magic was inside. A frozen gin and tonic? The Vaca Tonic is so basic, yet



JASON KEAM

16 flame-grilled meats served tableside

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Ultimate caipirinhas, award-winning wines, and much more!

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13772 Jambaree Rd. | 949.209.1500
Serving Lunch Tuesday - Sunday and Dinner Nightly

Happy Haur
Manday - Friday | 4:30 - 6:00 PM

TexasdeBrazil.com

so addictive. Gabby Dion's branchild is based around Brooklyn Small Batch Gin, Fever Tree Mediterranean Tonic, frozen gimlet and basil blossom.

695 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 463-6061, vacarestaurant.com

JASON KEAM

Best Whiskey Bar
MACALLANS PUBLIC HOUSE

Broken down into its elements, whiskey is nothing more than grains that have been fermented, distilled and left to rest on oak. The beautiful thing about that process is what's in the glass yet to be discovered. Macallans not only has one of the largest selections of brown in the county, but the staff are venerable spirit guides that can guide you on an 80-plus-proof vision quest, as well.

330 W. Birch St., Brea, (714) 529-1224, www.macallanspubbrea.com

READERS' CHOICE: MACALLANS PUBLIC HOUSE

Best Mediterranean
BASIL MEDITERRANEAN

Despite a bad location with a dearth of parking spots, Basil Mediterranean has carved out a gorgeous and classy space. The restaurant thrives on the Persian tried-and-true. Start your meal by dragging pillowy pita triangles through a smooth-as-velvet hummus or the savory-sugary mash of baked eggplant called kashk e bademjan topped with yogurt, dried mint and fried onions. Nearly everything else—beef, chicken, lamb or seafood—comes hot from a well-tended grill. The koobideh, seasoned ground sirloin molded onto metal skewers, is the most flavorful hamburger meat ever made. The juice-weeping chicken shish kebab has char-kissed pieces so bright orange from its marinade it almost resembles tandoori. Best of all, the prices are cheaper here than at the nearby Darya, where Basil Mediterranean's owner was once a partner—consolation for the awful parking situation that you can take to the bank.

1907 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, (949) 200-6481, www.basilmediterraneangrill.com

READERS' CHOICE: H.B. PITA GRILL

Best Oysters
RAW BAR BY SLAPFISH

When Andrew Gruel first opened Slapfish half a dozen years ago, he served oysters, but not at the level he does now at Raw Bar, the restaurant he built next to his flagship location in Huntington Beach. This is a grown-up, fully realized raw bar, with all the prerequisites. It comes complete with 18 beers on tap and a tattooed dude with a beard who does the shucking behind a counter full of ice. There are no fewer than 12 specimens from waters far and near, from Baja to Canada. When you order a dozen, the oysters are presented on show-stopping platters that are filled to the brim with crushed ice, propped up on stilts, and garnished with lemon, grated horseradish, cocktail sauce and a very nice mignonette. The best time to experience this amazing haul is during the "Beat the Clock" special, when, starting at 3 p.m., every oyster starts at a buck apiece, then goes up 50 cents every subsequent half-hour. And if there's anything better than a grown-up, fully realized raw bar by someone who knows seafood like Gruel, it's one that offers discounts.

19694 Beach Blvd., Huntington Beach, (714) 587-9222, www.slapfishrestaurant.com

READERS' CHOICE: WATER GRILL

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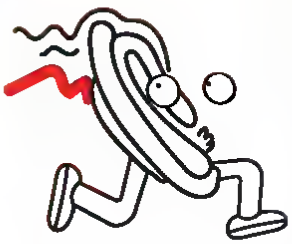
consume—in a restaurant inside a hotel or otherwise

7905 Irvine Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 531-8286, www.heirloomfarmhousekitchen.com

READERS' CHOICE: PLAYA MESA

Best New Restaurant
HEIRLOOM FARMHOUSE KITCHEN

At first, Heirloom Farmhouse Kitchen appears to be another hotel restaurant with a name that sounds focus-grouped by the marketing department. But as it turns out, Heirloom Farmhouse Kitchen isn't all bluster and PR-speak. The design is deliberate and careful; when you walk into this future-focused space, you see no defined borders separating where the restaurant begins and the hotel ends. Though the menu is seemingly filled with trite restaurant tropes of charred Brussels sprouts, roasted beets, even a mac and cheese, you'll discover the kitchen thought long and hard about making them the best versions of themselves. Even a humble pork chop becomes a spectacle. As thick as the September issue of *Vogue* and attached to a swooping bone, the Kurobuta pork tomahawk is brined, seasoned, cooked and seared to be the sweetest, juiciest, most satisfying hunk of pig you'll ever



JASON KEAM

Best Ramen
HIRONORI CRAFT RAMEN

You'll get a pretty great pork ramen here, but the vegan ramen may be even better. The broth is ultra-savory, an umami concentrate. Only when you think about it really hard will you even notice it's meatless. For sure, there's miso in it, a splash of chile oil and a stock that must have taken years to formulate; but the sum of its parts accumulates into one of the most satisfying ramen experience OC has ever seen.

2222 Michelson Dr., Ste. 234, Irvine, (949) 536-5800, hironoricraftramen.com

READERS' CHOICE: SHIN-SEN-GUMI HAKATA KAMEH

Best Restaurant
CHEF'S COUNTER AT NAPA ROSE

Forget the crowds, the lines and the overpriced tickets at Disneyland—for a Disney experience that's worth every penny and where you're treated like a celebrity despite not having a Club 33 membership, book yourself a seat at Napa Rose's Chef's Counter for its multicourse prix fixe. You not only get front-row views of acrobatic chefs tending to multiple burners and ovens while juggling multiple sauté pans, but you also get to eat what they cook. You see and smell everything: the nonstop whirlwind of activity, the constant aroma of brown butter. There's not a moment you won't marvel at the way the chef de cuisine controls the chaos. You will, of course, be stuffed to the gills. There will be amuses, immaculately prepared seafood, pink duck breasts, and milky sweetbreads with mushrooms and pasta. Anything and everything can happen on your plate. But as Napa Rose represents the summit of Disney restaurant hospitality and its Chef's Counter the apex of that summit, your server will ask you about allergies and food aversions before the show begins. Expect to see the kitchen go full-bore "Be Our Guest" on you, course by course, one by one, 'til you shout, "Enough—I'm done!"

1313 Disneyland Dr., Anaheim, (714) 635-2300, disneyland.disney.go.com/grand-californian-hotel/napa-rose

READERS' CHOICE: HUE OI VIETNAMESE CUISINE

Best Seafood Restaurant
HOOK & ANCHOR

As you zoom on Newport Boulevard toward Balboa Peninsula, you will surely miss Hook & Anchor. The mini-mall in which it sits is one of the least accessible in the county, with no street parking and a tiny lot. And that's a shame because while Hook & Anchor resembles a casual eatery that revels in fish tacos and sandwiches, it

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is also capable of producing seafood that competes with the likes of Water Grill. The po'boys overflow with delicate deep-fried shrimp, soft-shell crab, Guinness-battered cod or oysters. The lobster fries trade in trendiness for substance, with the garlic-and-parmesan-dusted potatoes crisp, the lobster plentiful, and the house-made lemon-herb Sriracha aioli tangy. And despite being served in a plastic to-go container, the clams here are cooked in the classic French style, with white wine, shallots, garlic, leeks and butter. Chef/owner Wayne Magnusen is a Cordon Bleu grad who knows what he's doing; look no further than the immaculately grilled and presented Scottish salmon plate with cilantro-lime rice, sauteed-to-order green beans, micro greens and edible flower petals. If he didn't serve it on a paper plate, it would be fit for a *Saveur* cover shoot.

3305 Newport Blvd., Ste. E, Newport Beach, (949) 423-7169, www.hooknanchor.com

READERS' CHOICE: SLAPFISH

Best Steak

CAMBALACHE

The best steak at Cambalache—an Argentinean restaurant that juggles more Italian pastas dishes than empanadas—isn't a rib-eye or a Porterhouse; it's a skirt steak, a finicky cut that can easily toughen to leather. It's done perfectly here, served as a whole slab resembling an airplane wing. It doesn't melt in your mouth. You have to chew this steak, but it's always pleasurable, never a chore. The edges are caramelized and pockmarked with char as though it were a beefy crème brûlée. The rest is so extraordinarily savory you swear some sort of marinade is involved. And unlike most steakhouses, the meal comes with golden-crusted potatoes that are uniformly crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside. Smash them with a fork to absorb the steak juices. Who needs a baked potato?

8711 Warner Ave., Ste. 15, Fountain Valley, (714) 375-3305, cambalachegrill.com

READERS' CHOICE: RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE

Best Waterfront Dining

LIDO BOTTLE WORKS

Lido Marina Village has come a long way. For years, the place was neglected and in disrepair. Now that the long-awaited restoration to this once-thriving marina—which hosted the likes of John Wayne in the 1970s—is finally complete, it's the perfect spot for window shopping and romantic Newport Beach sunset strolls without having to venture too deep into the Peninsula. As proof it has resonated with the Newport Beach glitterati, there's never less than two Bentleys at the valet. The jewel of the crown here is Nobu, but to sit at its sushi bar is to be swallowed by the whale with nary a view of the outside. At Lido Bottle Works, you are closer to the views you came here to experience. Furthermore, the restaurant is more accessible and less expensive. It accepts no reservations for parties fewer than six. There's an outdoor patio to the side, a dining room that resembles the cozy interior of a rickety houseboat. In the back, there's a tall, glass refrigerator stocked so full of beers that it looks as if it were ripped from the corner liquor store. It seems to say, "Come here not to flaunt your bling, but to have a cold beer, a good time and maybe a burger."

3408 Via Oporto, Ste. 103, Newport Beach, (949) 529-2784, lidobottleworks.com

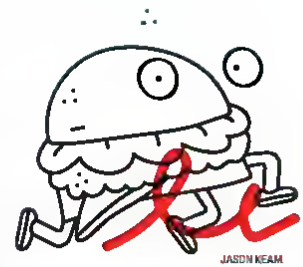
READERS' CHOICE: DUKE'S HUNTINGTON BEACH

Best Burger

GRAZE

Called "Umami," Graze's black garlic burger is drowning in the jet-black relish, which dribbles off the sides even before you pick it up. As proven after the first taste, there's no such thing as too much black garlic. The closest approximation of this fermented—and so far niche—ingredient is caramelized onions cooked with a splash of balsamic, a dash of Worcestershire and maybe a hint of red wine. It catapults the umami quotient to heights far higher than Umami Burger's signature sandwich. It does this despite the fact that Graze already stacks the umami deck on the burger with the inclusion of cave-aged Gruyère, bacon jam, garlic mushrooms, crispy parmesan, roasted tomato and truffle aioli. To the crisp-edged griddle-smashed patty, the black garlic is like an amplifier on the electric guitar—and it's set to 11.

201 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (949) 735-2389, www.grazehandcraftedburgers.com



JASON KEAM

READERS' CHOICE: IN-N-OUT

Best Chinese Restaurant

NEW MOON

In today's dining scene, in which everyone, not just the Chinese customer, is much savvier to restaurants that serve undiluted regional specialties, it's nothing but a miracle that New Moon, with its decidedly old-school Americanized Chinese dishes, manages to stay relevant. It does so even as it holds on to such stale standards as paper-wrapped chicken, egg foo young and chop suey. But it can be argued that New Moon has done more than just stay relevant; it's the new flagbearer of Americanized Chinese food. There's sophistication and finesse in its execution, something many of its peers lack. The dishes are prepared by chefs with the abiding precision of Chinese-banquet-cooking techniques, even as they're making sweet-and-sour pork. And the Chinese Chicken Salad, which New Moon claims to have invented 45 years ago in LA, is a revelation. What it lacks in looks it makes up for in substance. It's the Steve Buscemi of salads.

7620 Beach Blvd., Buena Park. (714) 562-9920. newmoonrestaurants.com

READERS' CHOICE: GOLDEN DRAGON

Best Date Night

MARCHÉ MODERNE

If you intend to treat your lover for a birthday or milestone anniversary, secure a reservation at Marché Moderne at least a month in advance. Then, start saving up a fuck ton of money in anticipation of your meal. Let's not kid ourselves. Unless you're part of the moneyed 1 percent that resides in the Crystal Cove neighborhood above the restaurant, dinner here is going to cost you. It will all become evident when you see a menu that features not only oysters and Russian caviar as suggested starters, but also a tasting of Bordier butter. Yes, fancy butter from France. And no, it's not free. For a main course, order the coq au vin. Served still fuming in its copper pot, it's the kind of hearty bistro and French-country fare that revels in the rich and the generously portioned—food for which owners Florent and Amelia Marneau have been renowned since the last Marche Moderne incarnation at South Coast Plaza. And as expensive as this chicken dish is, it's perfect for two to share. But you should still splurge

"TAKOYAKI" - DANNY RAMIREZ

on dessert—unless, that is, grateful for the outing, your date winks at you and says, "I have dessert waiting for you at home."

7862 Pacific Coast Hwy., Newport Beach. (714) 434-7900. marchemoderne.net.

READERS' CHOICE: THE CELLAR

Best Vietnamese Restaurant

BRODARD

Since Diane Dang and her daughters opened Brodard in 1996 at the Mall of Fortune, it has arguably become one of the most important Vietnamese-cuisine landmarks in the county, if not Southern California. Now that they moved its entire industrial-level operation into a brand-new, 8,000-square-foot location in Fountain Valley, it's poised to be even more influential. The new location is now more accessible, more modern and less intimidating to the non-Vietnamese. But its food remains unchanged, as good and as unapologetically authentic as ever. There's everything from fish porridge to stir-fried glass noodle to banh khot tom, rice-flour batter formed into little cups with curls of shrimp nested inside. But no meal here is complete without the nem nuong cuon, the specialty Brodard's women single-handedly invented. It's a spring roll to end all spring rolls containing lettuce, a slender piece of deep-fried egg-roll skin, cucumber, chives and nem nuong, a ruddy

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and springy thing made of pork or shrimp that isn't quite a sausage and not really SPAM, but a combo of the two. It's best dipped into the warm sludge of its secret sauce, a murky, orange-colored concoction halfway between soup and glue whose recipe is still as closely guarded as the nuclear launch codes.

16105 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley, (657) 247-4401, www.brodardrestaurant.net.

READERS' CHOICE: HUE OI VIETNAMESE CUISINE

Best Fish Taco

LUPES MEXICAN EATERY

The grilled wild hoki fish from New Zealand gets flavored with Michoacan and Baja flare in this hand-crafted taco that will make you a devotee after the first bite. You can watch the tortillas being made and observe the sizzling and assembly of your taco, but what secrets those squirt bottles contain that make it so addicting remain a mystery. If you crave a second fish taco to go with the hoki, even though you don't yet know you'll want two grilled hokis, order the taco del mar. It's teeming with smoked tuna, octopus and shrimp and topped with cheese, avocado, cabbage and a delicate white sauce. Plus, Lupes has the excellent Stubborn fountain drinks, which are less sugary and come in fruity mixes that complement any protein that originates in the sea. Hoki forever.

33621 Del Obispo St., Ste. F, Dana Point, (949) 558-5431; also at 14916 Springdale St., Huntington Beach, (714) 892-7252, www.eatlupes.com

READERS' CHOICE: SLAPFISH

Best Foodie Event

PACIFIC WINE & FOOD CLASSIC

Now into its second year, the Pacific Wine & Food Classic has a lot going for it. First, it's put on by the OC Restaurant Association, the organization that has managed to corral a great majority of the county's far-flung eateries to participate in OC Restaurant Week. As such, the event draws in more than a hundred vendors, all trying to top one another. Second, but also important, is that it's held on prime beachy real estate at the Newport Dunes Waterfront, which makes it feel as though it's a giant seaside neighborhood block party—that is, if half your neighbors were restaurateurs, professional caterers and chefs, while the other half were vintners, brewers and mixologists. Though ticket prices are steep, you always feel you're getting your money's worth. At this all-you-can-drink-and-eat food-and-booze-a-palooza, it's unlikely that you can even hit a third of the vendors before you get full. There are so many variations of poke, ceviche and tartare, you lose count. And the organizers are only getting better every year in anticipating their guests' needs. There are waist-high coolers stationed every hundred paces that are constantly being refilled with ice and Evian water. And this year, they provided Spandex cozies for the wine glasses so that you could strap it onto your wrist and move hands-free from booth to booth. Even the music they pick was perfect. Michael Jackson's "Don't Stop Till You Get Enough" seems particularly appropriate.

www.pacificwineandfood.com

READERS' CHOICE: NEWPORT BEACH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

Best Doughnut

DIPPITY DONUT

Old-school is what to expect at this no-frills spot in a Dana Point shopping center. Not that there's anything wrong with an artisan doughnut, it's just that sometimes you want a glazed to taste and feel like it did when you were a kid. And no matter how late in the morning you show up, Dippity Donut's glazed treat delivers that sweet, airy nostalgia. The cake varieties teem with sprinkles, and the buttermilk doughnuts crunch at the edges just the way you hope they will. Since you can get breakfast sandwiches here, too, bacon is available. Slices can be added onto a twist or crumbled onto a maple-glazed cake if you crave some savory with your sweet. The women in charge here won't be phased by any request, they are as composed as brain surgeons. Cash only!

33621 Del Obispo St., Ste. C, Dana Point, (949) 240-6064

READERS' CHOICE: SIDECAR DOUGHNUTS

Best Coffeehouse

JC BEANS

Despite being independently owned and Starbucks-adjacent, this coffeehouse with a fireplace surrounded by shelves of used books and a dog-friendly patio thrives. The staff bake on the premises and have other stuff delivered daily, and they'll let you know which is which. The baristas are coffee-and-foam artists—leaves and stems are just the beginning of what they adorn your latte with. But in the final coffeehouse analysis, the taste of the cuppa joe is crucial. (As well as how much you can get done while drinking it, or how creative you can be while procrastinating.) And JC Beans provides just the right vibe and roast, from the house organic to the formidable Thunder. "Drink Independent" is the slogan of this rustic home for coffee imbibing, open 365 days a year from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sit and sip, drive through, or take a bag of beans home.

34114 Pacific Coast Hwy., Dana Point, (949) 496-4700, Instagram: @jcbeanscoffee

READERS' CHOICE: KÉAR COFFEE

JASON KEAM

Best Bakery

BLACKMARKET BAKERY

A more delicious cake may exist, but where would you find it? A grandma's kitchen in a colorized movie from the silent era, maybe. These "blackmarketeers" create all the baked goods by hand, from scratch, with real butter. Just perfection. The cakes are available in multiple sizes from 4-inch round to three 9-inch tiers, with buttercream or chocolate ganache, ordered naked (a light coat of frosting with cake showing through) or smooth. Perhaps you'd like salted caramel-buttercream frosting? What about a border of pearls, flames or waves? Or an all-over array of giant multicolored polka dots? Wait. None of that sounds very grandma-like. ... Blackmarket cakes are the best of two worlds: scrumptious to look at, even better to devour. As for the cookies, tarts and breads? Ditto.

2937 Bristol St., Costa Mesa, (714) 662-3095, also at 211 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, (714) 571-0801, www.blackmarketbakery.com

READERS' CHOICE: BLACKMARRET BARERY

Best Cheese Shop

THE CHEESE SHOP AT THE MIX

Oh, the glory of cheese! And if you are going to name your store the Cheese Shop, you better know your cheese. Thankfully, the staff here are super-knowledgeable and pushy (in a good way!) with the samples. Try something new! Try something you've had before! Try everything! The seasonal selections are sliced to order by trained cheesemongers. As you savor a creamy Humboldt Fog, a tangy white cheddar with horseradish or a slightly sweet coconut gouda, peruse the baskets of bread and the shelves of honeys, mustards and other complements. And if all that delicious dairy made you peckish, order a grilled sandwich from the butcher-paper menu on the wall.

3313 Hyland Ave., Costa Mesa, (949) 284-0558, cheeseshopoc.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE CREESE SHOP AT THE MIX

Best Greek Restaurant

CHRISTAKIS GREEK CUISINE

Stepping into this hidden restaurant, you are transported to the Mediterranean. Soothing blues surround white-cloaked tables that will soon hold feasts of feta and kalamata olives, tangy dolmades (stuffed grape leaves), and the smoothest hummus in the county. The chicken Athenian is stuffed with so much flavor you will forget you're sitting in a Tustin strip mall. The lamb in the pastakia is tender and barbacous, its olive oil marinade brightening the rice pilaf on your plate. Do try to save room for the baklava, its sweet aroma will haunt you for days if you don't.

13013 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 731-6600, christakisgreekcuisine.com

READERS' CHOICE: APOLA GYRO GRILL

Best Sugar High

CREME & SUGAR

Just about everything offered at Creme & Sugar will have you bouncing off walls and talking nonstop in no time. Of course, you'll be exclaiming over its unicorn treats: the colorfully tiered cake accompanied by a candy bracelet, the pastel-marshmallow-topped hot chocolate, the shake that's adorned with rainbow candies! And the Cookie Monster coffee that oozes blue! And the S'mores Overload espresso, with its skewer of toasted marshmallows! And ... and ... and ... um ... zzzzzz.

6386 E. Santa Ana Canyon Rd., Anaheim, (714) 941-9059, www.cremeandsugar.com

Best Wings

O'CONNELL'S SPORTS PUB & GRILLE

Pushing aside the fact that O'Connell's Sports Pub & Grille serves $3.50 cocktails, this small pub should also be recognized for its wings. While barbecue wings are an option, one cannot go wrong with the traditional choice of hot and spicy. Though there is a lack of spice in the sauce, the overbearing flavor in each wing makes up for it. The juicy wings come drenched in the savory sauce, making each bite just as mouth-watering as the last.

19047 Bushard Ave., Huntington Beach (714) 964-674. www.hboconnells.com

READERS' CHOICE: SURF DOG'S SPORTS GRILL

Best Dive Bar

THE WILD GOOSE TAVERN

Nothing says America like a large stars-and-stripes hanging on a bar wall, with bras scattered about and hanging off the heads of taxidermy animals. The Wild Goose Tav-

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ern is so much more than this, though. The narrow bar carries a wide range of draft and bottled craft beers along with carefully crafted cocktails. One may opt out of ordering food at a dive bar that isn't onion rings or chicken wings, but the tavern offers gourmet-esque hamburgers and sausages with the accompanying choice of regular or white truffle fries. The food and various ages of guests flowing through the doors makes you feel less like you're in a grungy dive bar and more like you're dining and drinking at a Karl Strauss brewery.

436 E. 17th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 722-9453, www.goosebar.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE WILD GOOSE TAVERN

Best Bagels

BAGELMANIA

This Huntington Beach favorite features plenty of options for breakfast on the go. Always toasted to perfection, the bagels at Bagelmania are just as good with lox and cream cheese as they are plain. In a hurry? Take advantage of the drive-through—but be aware it can get pretty busy on weekends.

8861 Adams Ave., Huntington Beach, (714) 965-5637, bagelmaniacoffeehouse.com

READERS' CHOICE: SHIRLEY'S BAGELS

Best Boba

URBAN LOCATION TEA HOUSE

In Orange County, boba shops are so ubiquitous it can be difficult to find one that really stands out. Even still, Urban Location manages. There are dozens of delicious drinks available, as well as snacks from chicken bites to garlic fries. The staff is friendly, and the décor, while occasionally [illegible] eclectic, is hip and appealing. And, of course, Urban Location serves the endlessly Instagrammable lightbulb boba.

10872 Westminster Ave., Ste. 103, Garden Grove, (657) 216-0919, www.urban-location.com.

READERS' CHOICE: 7 LEAVES CAFE

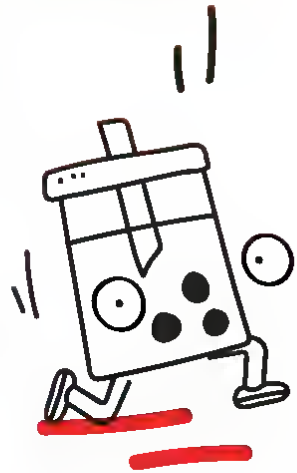
Best Cold Brew

BLKOOT COFFEE

When the temperature rises, a hot cup of coffee may not be the most comfortable way to get your caffeine kick. Luckily, BLKdot Coffee has you covered. The OC chain offers fresh, aromatic, rich cold brew at all four of its locations. So whether you're looking for something to start the day or a place to study after class, do it at BLKdot Coffee.

19510 Jamboree Rd., Ste. 150, Irvine, (949) 752-2882, also at 656 N. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 371-0288, 13786-B Jamboree Rd., Irvine, (714) 832-1111, and 924 Spectrum Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 585-9528, www.blkdotcoffee.com

READERS' CHOICE: PORTOLA COFFEE



JASON KEAM

Best Dog-Friendly Restaurant

GOLDEN ROAD BREWING

The trend of bringing dogs to breweries has continued to grow, and Golden Road Brewing in Anaheim provides one of the best spots to do so. Though the brewery unfortunately does not have a dog menu, it does offer a 5,000-square-foot patio on which you and your furry friend can enjoy one of many refreshing brewskies, appetizers (table scraps?) and a bowl of water. The spacious patio also helps to keep the drunken environment from overwhelming your K-9 companion. According to our very own Edwin Goei, Golden Road plans to add another

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20,000 square feet to the patio, with the new extension including a dog park. What better way to meet a future partner than with the help of liquid courage and your dog?

2210 E. Orangewood Ave., Anaheim, (714) 912-4015, goldenroad.la/anaheim

READERS' CHOICE: LAZY DOG RESTAURANT & BAR

Best Diner

MAE'S CAFE

This is what every diner should be: offering low prices and open 24 hours a day. The extensive menu features all the standbys, but the real standout is the French toast. Mae's Cafe has a quaint, family-owned vibe, which usually signals that you're in for a good experience. Although most of the items on the menu cost less than $10, the portions are large enough that you'll never leave hungry.

9062 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, (714) 898-7044, www.maes-cafe.com

READERS' CHOICE: HARBOR HOUSE CAFE

Best Frozen Yogurt

HOUSE OF YOGURT

Though there's no shortage of fro-yo chains in OC, House of Yogurt should be your next stop for a refreshing frozen treat. The friendly staff will walk you through the variety of flavors and toppings. As a bonus, House of Yogurt offers fresh waffle cones!

369 E. 17th St., Ste. 27, Costa Mesa, (949) 335-5565, www.houseofyogurt.com

READERS' CHOICE: YOGURTLAND

Best Wine Bar

WINE LAB

Located in Costa Mesa's hipster capital, the Camp, the Wine Lab features a diverse selection of wines by the bottle, flights and pairings. Its science theme, with beakers and test tubes adorning the walls, makes this a fun spot, whether you're looking for a place for your next date or somewhere to unwind with friends.

2937 Bristol St. Ste. A101B, Costa Mesa, (714) 850-1788, winelab.net

READERS' CHOICE: SEALEGS WINE BAR

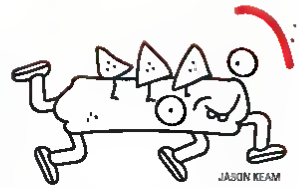
Best Burrito

BURRITOS LA PALMA

This small chain originally based out of the city of Jerez in Zacatecas, Mexico, has an outlet in Santa Ana that serves the most delicious burritos you can find anywhere in the county. For the burrito connoisseur, there are certain rules that must not be broken, among them never put rice in a breakfast burrito. But there's another rule. Don't overstuff the damn thing. That's what makes La Palma's burritos the best: Though they are about half the size of a typical burrito, they more than make up for it in flavor, particularly the chicken tinga and potato version, which has just the right combination of savory meat and starch. And since the burritos are small and cheap, why not order two?

410 N. Bristol, Santa Ana, www.burritoslapalma.net

READERS' CHOICE: JIMBOY'S TACOS



JASON KEAM

Best Coffee

PORTOLA COFFEE ROASTERS

Along with perennial *Weekly* favorite Kean Coffee in Newport Beach, you can't go wrong at Portola Coffee, which has several locations throughout Orange County. Our favorite is the one inside Santa Ana's 4th Street Market. All of the coffee is meticulously sourced from regional producers who share Portola's emphasis on finding the highest quality beans while not exploiting farmers in the process. The

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result—whether it's the bags of coffee you can brew at home or the laborious, laboratory-quality brewing process employed onsite—is as close to the perfect cup of joe as you will ever taste.

201 E. Fourth St., Ste. 103, Santa Ana
www.portolacoffeelab.com/santa-ana

READERS' CHOICE: PHILZ COFFEE

Best Day-Drinking Bar
HAMMER WORKSHOP & BAR

Located upstairs at the Anaheim Packing District, this spot is something akin to an airport bar. Most of the customers are tourists or convention-center attendees, but there are also the random couple or group of friends gathering for happy hour. Although the Hammer Workshop & Bar serves no food, you can bring your own from any of the onsite restaurants. The bar's secret weapon is its rotation of lively and friendly bartenders, all of whom are experts when it comes to mixing spirits. There's also a fun selection of games and puzzles that are much harder to solve than you'd imagine, especially after a couple of #BASICBITCH cocktails.

440 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim,
(714) 966-4661,
www.facebook.com/hammerworkshopandbar

READERS' CHOICE: STAG BAR + KITCHEN

Best French Toast
STARLING DINER

OC Weekly actually created this Best Of category because of Starling Diner some years back, and if you haven't yet gone there, you're missing out on one of the best brunch spots in Long Beach. The restaurant is tucked into a house in Belmont Heights and tends to get crowded on weekends after 8:30 a.m., so plan on arriving early. Although everything on the menu, especially the egg scrambles, are worth trying, the French toast, consisting of a baguette slathered with marscapone and broiled to perfection, is truly formidable. The dish goes great with a mimosa or two.

4114 E. Third St., Long Beach, (562) 433-2041,
www.starlingdiner.info

READERS' CHOICE: TOAST KITCHEN + BAKERY

Best Lobster Roll
THE LOBSTA TRUCK

Having worked at a genuine Cape Cod seafood restaurant back in the day, our fearless editor prepared and ate many a lobster roll. There are two basic varieties, both of which are served in a warm, buttery hot-dog bun. One consists of chilled lobster meat with mayo, the other, his personal favorite, is served with hot butter and no mayo. The Lobsta Truck's version of the hot, buttered lobster roll is the perfect expression of this classic New England summer treat. Add a bag of chips and a beer, and you're as close to heaven as you can get without actually being in Maine mid-July.

www.lobstatruck.com

READERS' CHOICE: SLAPFISH

Best Thai Restaurant
STAR OF SIAM

Complete with a portrait of the royal couple on the wall, Star of Siam is an old-school Thai restaurant. Although the place has a healthy takeout business, the dinner crowd isn't too thick, so you can always grab a good table. Everything on the menu is fantastic, but there are a couple of standouts. For an appetizer, consider the Nura Kem, a plate of salty beef jerky served with a spicy house-made chile sauce. For dinner, you can't do

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wrong with any of the curries, the garlic shrimp, pad thai or drunken spicy noodles, all of which pair well with beer or wine. And don't forget the award-winning lychee martini!

2109 E. Broadway, Long Beach, (562) 439-1564, www.starofsiamlongbeach.com

READERS' CHOICE: THAI HARBOR

Best Pancakes
FLAPPY JACK'S PANCAKE HOUSE

Here you'll find everything you could want from a pancake house: fluffy, massive pancakes; a 1950s diner feel; and lavish portions. Although Flappy Jack's is a popular breakfast spot on Sunday mornings, your server will make sure your cup is always full and the wait for your order isn't too long. When you leave, you'll be fully satisfied—and carrying a box of leftovers for tomorrow morning (or evening, if you're into breakfast for dinner).

2848 N. Santiago Blvd., Orange, (714) 283-2800, www.flappyjacks.com

READERS' CHOICE: FLAPPY JACK'S PANCAKE HOUSE

Best Vegan Restaurant
MEAD'S GREEN DOOR CAFE

Peace, love and plant-based food are all a vegan wants, and Mead's Green Door Cafe fits the bill. Fan favorites such as the buffalo cauliflower and sriracha bomb burger won't get you too *enchilado*, but they will satisfy your cravings for spicy food. There are even vegan pastries you can pick up on your way to work in the morning. The door to Mead's is an actual green door, opening into a whole world of delicious vegan delights that even carnivores will enjoy.

642 W. Chapman Ave., Orange, (714) 771-8556, www.meadsgreendoor.com

READERS' CHOICE: SEARIDS KITCHEN

Best Old-School Food Truck
EL PEPINO LOCO

Every Cheetos addict's dream, El Pepino Loco offers a menu loaded with the cheesy cornmeal puffs and chamoy, making you gasp for air and an agua fresca. The fan-favorite Sandia Loca is packed with watermelon, cucumber, oranges, jicama, corn sticks, mango, peanuts and tamarindo straws, all drenched in chamoy.

instagram.com/elpepinoloco_714

Best Bikini Bar
TURNER'S PUB 33

This pub has an awesome staff, open pool tables, great tacos and cold beer. Is there anything more you could ask for? Oh, yeah ... *and* it's a bikini bar! Turner's Pub 33 is a great place to catch a late-night game of pool and have a beer with the help of the beautiful, knowledgable staff. Between 9 and 10 p.m. every day, the bar discounts all beer and wine by 33 percent, and if you go on a Tuesday, tacos and glasses of beer are available for just $2 each.

1562 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, (949) 548-6984, www.turnerspub33.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE GREEN GIRL SALOON

Best Bar in Long Beach
THE HAWK

This neighborhood dive is beloved for a spirits list vast enough to intrigue even LA snobs and prices low enough to make fast regulars out of us all. The pours are generous and the music great (everything from Chente to James Brown), and there's a photo booth to capture your saucy moments. A tabby cat named Jameson watches over the Hawk and is known to steal your barstool and your lady should you get up!

468 W. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 337-8373

READERS' CHOICE: ALEX'S BAR

Best Vietnamese Iced Coffee
7 LEAVES CAFE

Delicious minimalism is on lock at 7 Leaves Cafe, which specializes in 12 iced drinks and three types of coffee. The raved-about Mungbean Green Tea is just the right amount of sweet and flavorful—and it goes great with a fresh macaron.

13401 Euclid St., Ste. B, Garden Grove, (714) 534-7999, 7leavescafe.com

READERS' CHOICE: HUE DI VIETNAMESE CUISINE

JASON KEAM

Best Barbecue
EMBER

Derrick Foster turned in his fine-dining tweezers for hickory wood and a smoker, then showed Orange County the history, tradition, craft and testament that goes into a Kansas City-style pit with his barbecue popup, Ember. Luckily for us, we didn't have to wait long for Foster to land a brick-and-mortar and deliver more pink-ringed, fat-marbled brisket with sticky, fall-apart burnt ends worth bragging about.

305 E. Fourth St., Ste. 200, Santa Ana, (714) 204-0337, www.emberpopup.com

READERS' CHOICE: NEWPORT RIB CO.

Best Bartender
CESAR CERRUDO

Cocktail *chingon* Cesar Cerrudo is known to push boundaries. At El Mercado Modern Cuisine, he has crafted a menu that perfectly blends the classics with bright originals—such as the Sinaloa in a Glass, with cucumber-infused tequila, house-made serrano liqueur and passionfruit-cucumber-ginger syrup and finished with an aguachile sal rim—to match chef Bryan Bustos' menu of modern Mexi bites.

301 N. Spurgeon St., Santa Ana, (714) 338-2446, www.mercadomodern.com

READERS' CHOICE: RYAN AUTRY (THE BLIND PIG KITCHEN AND BAR)

Best Korean Restaurant
SAMGEOLI KOREAN RESTAURANT

Nestled in a tiny shopping center off Fullerton's long stretch of Euclid, just past Bastanchury Road, stands Samgeoli Korean Restaurant. Here you won't find tabletop grills, all-you-can-eat Korean barbecue or KFC (Korean fried chicken), instead, you'll discover specialty dishes, hearty stews, and profoundly intense master sauces and condiments. It's a hole-in-the-wall establishment serving up unapologetically homestyle dishes.

2051 N. Euclid St., Fullerton, (714) 773-1168, www.samgeoli.com

READERS' CHOICE: MR. BBQ

Best Margarita
TEMPO URBAN KITCHEN

With a happy hour offered Monday through Friday, Tempo Urban Kitchen has one thing on its mind: *puro pinche pari*. Its *chingon* bartenders craft house cocktails that are robust, precisely made, easy to enjoy and sit on a scale between refreshing and spirituous. Plus, it specializes in the

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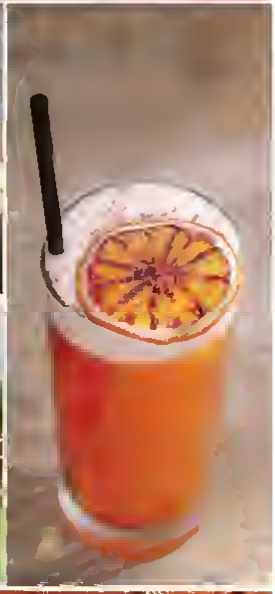

agaves, so snag a seat at the bar with an El Guapo margarita. At its base, El Guapo is a smooth blend of double-distilled Maestro Dobel silver tequila, muddled serrano chiles and a touch of smoky Ancho Reyes liqueur (made in Puebla, Mexico, from ancho chiles steeped in a sugar cane spirit). The herbaceous notes from the tequila are enhanced with fresh lime and lemon juices for a perky cocktail with a bite. *Salud!*

1060 E. Imperial Hwy., Brea. (714) 529-2900, tempourbankitchen.com.

READERS' CRDICE: AVIEA'S EL RANCRITO

Best Micheladas
ALTA BAJA MARKET

Alta Baja Market dominates the michelada game in Orange County. Plus, owner Delilah Snell has the elixir to our *borracho* problems. On the last Sunday of every month, she serves up hearty bowls of pozole rojo until the kitchen runs out. With generous helpings of tender, slow-braised pork and hominy, the stew's savory broth can bring anyone back from the brink. Paired with an ice-cold Mera Mera michelada, it's the cure to your *crudo*.

201 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana. (714) 793-2252, www.altabajamarket.com

READERS' CRDICE: MISSION BAR

Best Pho
SUP NOODLE BAR

You are here to eat a pho that simmers for 24 hours, its richness accentuated with star anise and garnished with white onions, scallions and culantro (similar to cilantro but more pungent). This is just the base broth. Sup Noodle Bar offers an even more aromatic Northern Vietnamese shaken-style pho that includes garlic, sliced onions, scallions and wok-seared bone marrow oil for a smokier flavor. Choose between thin and flat rice noodles or ramen to pair with tender pho short rib, pho tom (shrimp), pho dau bu (soft or fried tofu), pho beef belly, pho duoi bo (braised bone-in oxtail) or pho dac biet (chef's choice of beef belly, tendon, brisket, meatballs and short rib). Add a sous-vide egg to any of these for an extra layer of umami.

5141 Beach Blvd., Ste. B, Buena Park. (714) 521-2444, supnoodlebar.com

READERS' CRDICE: RUE DI VIETNAMESE CUISINE

Best Filipino Restaurant
IRENIA

From an itinerant popup to brick-and-mortar in downtown Santa Ana, Irenia continues to lead the Southern California Filipino food movement with flavors that are distinctively sweet, sour, savory and unapologetically Pinoy through beautifully crafted modern dishes that still make the *lolas* proud.

400 N. Broadway, Santa Ana. (657) 245-3466, www.ireniarestaurant.com

Best Pie
SWEETCIE PIE

Karen Uyeda offers a type of pie or pastry for everyone: fluffy, buttery, tart, not-too-sweet, and good old-fashioned fruit pie. She exploded onto Southern California's pie scene as one of the winners of KCRW-FM 89.9's 2016 Good Food Pie Contest with her amaretto cherry pie with coconut oil crust, taking first place in the vegan category. Uyeda's puff pastries, fruit tarts and delightful pies are in high demand, all of which she will hand-deliver to you as long as you live in Irvine or its neighboring cities.

www.etsy.com/shop/SweetciePie

READERS' CRDICE: POLLY'S PIES RESTAURANT & BAKERY

JASON KEAM

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New Brunello di Montalcino wines from the 2013 vintage (Italy) "Stunning, radiant wines ... Energy and elegance are hallmarks of the 2013 Brunello vintage. These wines boast remarkable aging potential and will greatly reward your patience." -Wine Enthusiast $40, 4:30-8:00pm
Sat. 10/20 TABLAS CREEK (pictured above)
We will have special guest Darren Delmore from this iconic Paso Robles winery here to talk about the wines. Tablas Creek is loved by both customers and staff alike so this will be an awesome night! $30, 2-8:00pm
250 Ogle Street • Costa Mesa CA • 949 650 8463
hitimewine.net • @mrhitime on Instagram & Twitter

Best Outdoor Dining
RESTAURATION

Chef Phil Pretty's burger is reason alone to trek to Long Beach, but with affordable happy-hour prices on delightful cocktails, craft beer and wine, there's no reason to leave the refreshing outdoor patio. The space fills up quickly, so get there early!

2708 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 439-6822, restaurationlb.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE REACHCOMBER

Best Ice Cream
SCOOPS OC

Though it's probably best known for its brown bread ice cream (made with Grape-Nut cereal and caramel) and elaborate flavors, it's Scoops' reinvented classics that are actually worth seeking out. Here, there's no such thing as a simple vanilla, instead, there's kambocha burnt sugar, strawberry balsamic, or sea salt chocolate.

605 E. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, (657) 210-0399

READERS' CHOICE: AFTERS ICE CREAM

Best Rock Club
THE PARISH ROOM AT THE HOUSE OF BLUES

We all know the Goliath layout of the House of Blues at Anaheim Garden-Walk makes the old building look puny. But between going there for marquee headliners and soldout shows in the main room, sometimes you crave something a bit more intimate. That's when it's time to dip into the Parish Room's 400-capacity space, with its high ceilings, stained-glass windows and kick-ass sound system. Often utilized to host OC's up-and-coming bands on their trajectory to the main stage, it's a great place to see local acts ignite the crowd. Though it's a *little* smaller than the main hall's 2,200 capacity, it's substantially larger than the venue's plush, vibey Foundation Room, which is less suited for a super-loud rock band to test out their windmilling guitar tricks. For bands, it's also great having an attentive sound crew (piloting a rig of top-of-the-line audio equipment) and backstage management to take care of you from the time you load in to the last note of the night. Plus, the Parish Room has its own bar. Next time you're perusing the House of Blues' calendar, take a minute to see what's going on in the Parish Room, you might discover a future star being baptized by fire at the altar of rock & roll.

400 Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

READERS' CHOICE: THE COACH HOUSE

Best Wine Shop
HI-TIME WINE CELLARS

Inside this Costa Mesa landmark, downstairs from the beer and liquor department, there's a vast selection of wines from around the world organized by region and variety. By vast, we mean 3,000 square feet stacked with more than 10,000 bottles. You can find everything here from an affordable Spanish riojo or albarino to a $700 bottle of Napa's finest. Speaking of Napa, the store features Napa Technology automated machines that allow you to purchase wine by the glass to sip while you browse. There's also a wine-tasting bar open Thursday through Saturday that offers an array of samples based on your budget.

JASON KEAM

250 Ogle St., Costa Mesa, (600) 331-3005
www.hitimewine.net.

READERS' CHOICE: HI-TIME WINE CELLARS

Best Sports Bar
THE GLEN BAR AND GRILL

Tucked away in a Garden Grove strip mall, the Glen Bar and Grill offers pool tables, flat-screen TVs, a jukebox equipped with a touch screen and a huge selection of beers. Eating bar food can sometimes be risky, but not here: the onion rings are mouthwatering and tacos are a fan favorite. The latest games are playing everywhere, so you don't have to worry about finding a perfect spot to watch.

13132 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove, (714) 663-1775 www.theglenbar.com

READERS' CHOICE: YARD HOUSE

Best Taco
TACO MARÍA

Carlos Salgado's cuisine not only challenges preconceptions of Mexican food, but it also pushes the *alta cocina* movement forward. And if that's not *chingon* enough, he's partnered up with Masienda, the leading importers and purveyors of heirloom Latin ingredients and non-GMO maize, on a mission to elevate the tortilla by educating consumers and working with small farming communities to bring forth the real flavor, aroma and taste of corn. The next time you question why his tacos are $14 to $18 per pair, know he's offering you a better product that supports our local farmers' markets, as well as purveyors of humanely raised meats and sustainable fishing practices. And when you go, order the taco arrachera—tender hanger steak cooked medium-rare, then served with roasted chiles and topped with a crispy strip of applewood bacon and queso fundido on a delicate but chewy heirloom-blue-corn tortilla.

3313 Hyland Ave., Ste. C-21, (714) 538-8444
www.tacomaria.com.

READERS' CHOICE: JIMROY'S TACOS

Best Tots
STREAMLINER LOUNGE

Part of the Ruby's Diner in Orange, the Streamliner Lounge brings back that film-noir feeling while moving forward with its cuisine. The best mix of eras can be found in the loaded tots, in which the crispy diced-potato barrels of our childhood are topped with bacon, shredded cheese, green onions and a drizzle of sour cream. They pair perfectly with the whisky of your choice and the trains rolling into the station.

186 N. Atchison St., Orange, (714) 639-7829,
www.thestreamlinerlounge.com

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Best of
OC WEEKLY
2018 ARTS &
ENTERTAINMENT

FOUR FRIENDS FROM FAMOUS BANDS HAVE A WHOLE NEW THING

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Best Club DJ
FUNK FREAKS

For these Costa Mesa DJs, Funk Freaks are more than a hipster attempt at nostalgia. This is a lifestyle built on endless crate-digging, online scouring and dealing with record collectors around the world for the next song that's destined to slap you silly on the dance floor at spots such as Original Mike's and Marty's On Newport. In the past few years, their brand has gone international. Locals are drawn to the boogie and modern soul selections, as well as live performances from the old-school pioneers of the genre.

READERS' CHOICE: DJ ROME

Best Experimental Band
EMAEL

Led by classically trained cellist Emmanuel Ventura-Cruess, EMAEL blend experiments with the weirder side of R&B to fashion eclectic, jazzy grooves with a nod to his roots. The five-piece band blur the lines between electronic textures and instrumentation that can be as soft as it is explosive. That's a lot to take in—though hopefully not too much to make you forget that at the end of the day, they're just a solid-ass band.

Best Festival
OC FUNK FEST

You know a local festival has finally arrived when it's filling seats in a house usually reserved for Kanye West and Ducks games. But even before its biggest year to date, George Sanchez of Curious Entertainment knew OC Funk Fest had something special. This year's event only confirmed it. Summoning acts from the Bible of Lowrider culture and the pantheon of '80s electro funk, the lineup included Morris Day and the Time, the Bar-kays, Dazz Band, Con Funk Shun, the Original Mary Jane Girls, even hometown legend O'Bryan. It was a crowning achievement that didn't happen without years of dedicated fans piling in the stands and bringing the house down at gradually bigger and bigger venues, a testament to the everlasting power of the funk—long may it live.

Best Live Band
DEATH HYMN NUMBER 9

Even if we know it's the last time we can elect them since the band played their final shows this year, it's worth singing Death Hymn Number 9's praises from the grave. Going out on nine years strong (eerie, huh?), this Fullerton band made a mark on the scene by burning it to the ground after ripping the flesh from its bones and spitting blood in its face. Whether they were bashing their gear or diving head-first into the crowd, the group's psychotic pursuit of a good time always left fans with a story to tell. Even those times when Death Hymn smelled even more violently than they played (they never seemed to wash their bloody T-shirts), their music and their attitude will continue to set them apart from the rest of local music until their dying breath.

READERS' CHOICE: FLASHBACK HEART ATTACK

Best Indie Band
SLICE

Channeling the roots of riot grrrl riffs through spacey reverb and hyper-literate lyrics, Slice have a way of making a complex song about existential woe sound like a day at the park. The female-fronted quartet of LGBT musicians found their footing after members migrated from OC to Long Beach. Since the trio of vocalist/guitarist Megan Magiera, bassist Barbara Barrera and drummer Kelsey Landazuri expanded to include Alex Hattick on keyboards, their sound has stood out in the city's local scene. Check out songs such as "Horchata Teeth" and "Strata," released on their self-titled EP in March.

READERS' CHOICE: SWIRL

Best New Band
STORMHOUSE

More than clever chords or rhythmic rage, Chicano punk comes down to feel. For new(-ish) OC band Stormhouse, capturing the kitschy soundtrack of a grindhouse movie you can dance to at your *abuela*'s backyard party is sort of the best feeling there is. When Santa Ana native Noel Becerra teamed up with *OC Weekly* photographer/drummer extraordinaire Isaac Larios, bassist Ozzy Chong and dynamite singer Markie Medina, the perfect storm was born. This year, the band's long-awaited debut EP, *Tfel* (that's "Left" spelled backward for you non-dyslexics), recorded by legendary wingnut wizard Mike McHugh, put them in the right position to unleash their special brand of eclectic electricity, which strikes at the heart of where punk rock is now.

READERS' CHOICE: WHISKEY & THE WOLVES

Best Rapper
YUNG PINCH

He may be "yung," but he's still the only rapper in OC big enough to have his face on a billboard on Pacific Coast Highway in his native "Bluntington Beach." With a trademark mane of Tarzan locks, the rapper born Blake Sandoval continues to rise as Yung Pinch with the release of this year's surfside slapper "Piña Colada," "Sail Away" and "This My Wave." Combining contemporary beats, a sing-songy flow and memorable hooks with the right amount of mumble, the trap is set for Pinch to catch even more recognition.

Best Venue for Live Music
GARDEN AMP

It would be enough for Garden Amp to win this category simply for giving us a reason to go to Garden Grove (other than when we're hungry). Typically known as the home of the Shakespeare and Strawberry festivals, Jon Reiser and his team moved into the multipurpose venue—which includes a 600-seat amphitheater, a 150-capacity space dubbed the Locker Room and a massive outdoor area where the High and Mighty Festival drew more than 10,000 reggae rock fans last summer—to cultivate its assets and bring huge, unexpected shows to a sleeper city that finally seems to be waking up.

READERS' CHOICE: THE OBSERVATORY

Best Jazz Band
DEREK BOROEAUX

If you follow OC's jazz scene, then you know Derek Bordeaux and his band have been tearing the covers off cover songs and breathing soul into jazz standards for years. The local, vocal powerhouse is king of making the roof jump wherever he performs, from the Newport Beach Jazz Festival to gigs at Spaghettini. He and his band of virtuoso siblings and longtime friends can still turn any cougar den or fancy dinner party into a smooth-jazz rager, which is actually much more exciting than it sounds if you enjoy getting lit to the tunes of George Benson and Luther Vandross.

DANIEL RAMIREZ

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2018 BEST OF READERS' POLL

The following have been voted the best in the Arts & Entertainment category

BEST ART GALLERY
LIVING ROOM SALON & ART GALLERY
Costa Mesa
thelivingroomsalon.com

BEST ART MUSEUM
BOWERS MUSEUM
Santa Ana
www.bowers.org

BEST CLUB DJ
DJ RDME

BEST COSMETIC SURGEON
DR. MICHAEL NICCOLE
Corona Del Mar
www.cosmeticare.com/doctor/michael-niccole-md

BEST INDIE BAND
SWIRL

BEST INDIE FILM THEATER
THE FRIDA CINEMA
Santa Ana
thefridacinema.org

BEST INSTAGRAM
@OCWANDERLUST

BEST KARAOKE
HOUSE OF BLUES AT ANAHEIM GARDENWALK
Anaheim
www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

BEST LIVE BAND
FLASHBACK HEART ATTACK

BEST LOCAL CELEBRITY
GWEN STEFANI

BEST LOCAL MUSIC FESTIVAL
DHANA MUSIC FESTIVAL
www.ohanafest.com

BEST MOVIE THEATER
THE FRIDA CINEMA
Santa Ana
thefridacinema.org

BEST MUSEUM
AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC
Long Beach
www.aquariumofpacific.org

BEST MUSICAL PRODUCTION
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW
SHADOWCAST AT THE FRIDA CINEMA
Santa Ana
thefridacinema.org

BEST NEW BAND
WHISKEY & THE WOLVES

BEST NIGHTCLUB
MDA WEDNESDAYS AT LA CAVE
Costa Mesa
www.lacaverestaurant.com

BEST PLACE FOR COUNTRY MUSIC/LINE DANCING
THE RANCH RESTAURANT & SALOON
Anaheim
www.theranch.com

BEST PLAY
THE BOOK OF MORMON

BEST PODCAST
GRANTED RADIO
www.grantedrecords.com/granted-radio

BEST POLITICIAN
HARLEY ROUDA

BEST PUNK BAND
ADOLESCENTS

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KROQ
kroq.radio.com

BEST ROCK BAND
HARLIS SWEETWATER BAND

BEST STRIP JOINT
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Multiple Locations
thelibrarygc.com

BEST THEATER/PLAYHOUSE
LONG BEACH PLAYHOUSE
Long Beach
www.lbplayhouse.org

BEST VENUE FOR LIVE COMEDY
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irvine.improv.com

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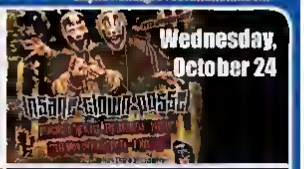

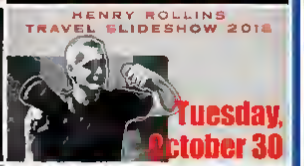

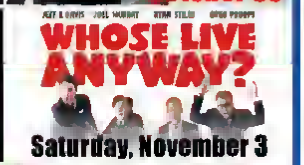

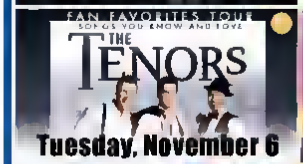

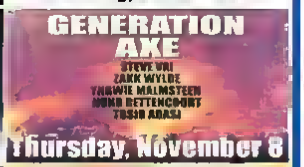

TICKETED BY axs PRE-SHOW DINNER AVAILABLE!

Best Tribute Band

YACHTLEY CREW

Some might think yacht rock's glory days sailed away decades ago, but every time this OC crew of skippers docks at the House of Blues, fans of Steely Dan, Hall & Oates, and the Eagles come out and party Blending cheeky stage banter with solid songs from yesteryear and plenty of seamen (um, at least when it comes to their clothing), Yachtley Crew are the Steel Panther of the high seas, and we're glad to hear 'em whenever they float into town with drinks in their hands and a shipload of cover songs.

Best Politicians

WOMEN OF CONGRESS

In the Year of the Woman, Orange County could end up with more female members of Congress than males. In November's general election, three congressional districts—the 46th, 47th and 48th—have incumbents and challengers with penises, but OC's other four districts boast women in the races. Two of those are locks to send females to D.C. Popular incumbent Linda Sanchez (D-Lakewood) will again defeat Republican Ryan Downing in the 38th, a mostly southeastern Los Angeles County district that also includes the small OC city of La Palma. Even if incumbent Mimi Walters (R-Irvine) loses in the 45th, the winner will be a woman (Democrat Katie Porter). Making it four-for-four would require two Republican women to defeat two Democratic men in districts currently represented by male GOP veterans. Young Kim aims to succeed her former boss, Ed Royce (R-Brea), in the 38th, while Diane Harkey hopes to follow Darrell Issa (R-Vista) in the 49th, where she has won his endorsement.

READERS' CHOICE: HARLEY ROUDA

Best Actor

NOAH WAGNER

The structure of Tom Jacobson's play within many plays, *The Twentieth Century Way*, made it both appealing and a mystery to unravel—as did Noah Wagner's performance as the older of two actors hired by the Long Beach Police Department in 1914 to entrap any gay men who committed the crime of being gay in the city. Like his acting counterpart, Christian Jordan Skinner, Wagner played a ridiculous number of characters in the two-person Long Beach Playhouse production, sometimes shifting roles mid-sentence. More impressive than the number of roles, however, was his riveting performance as Warren, the artist turned undercover snitch. He was charismatic and likeable but oozed a kind of seething menace. You never knew what hand he was playing, or whether he was even playing a hand. But obviously he was. Wasn't he?

Best Actress

SUSANNAH ROGERS

For South Coast Repertory's production of *Shrew!*, Susannah Rogers played the titular character in Amy Freed's 21st-century revisionist take on Shakespeare's classic. But she also played the female playwright helping Shakespeare salvage his terribly male-centric play and stood in for the real writer—Freed herself. The fact she kept her bearings and delivered a multifaceted and complex performance in a play in which, for some 400 years, Kate has usually been object rather than subject, was a credit not only to Freed's script, but also Rogers' superlative performance.

Best Musical Production

CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND

No, this wasn't a straight-up musical, but Lauren Yee's world-premiere play about the ghosts of 1970s Cambodia intruding upon the present with a vengeance belongs in this issue somewhere. And why not musical? There were eight songs in the South Coast Repertory show, seven of them originals by Dengue Fever, a Los Angeles-based band with a Cambodian lead singer. All those songs, imbued with the American surf music and psychedelia sounds that permeated Cambodia until the mid-1970s, were performed by the six-person cast, four of whom played instruments. There was a lot more to Yee's play than the tunes, but the music absolutely amplified and informed its concerns—and it was bitchen to hear it all played live.

READERS' CHOICE: *THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW* SHADOWCAST AT THE FRIDA CINEMA

Best New Play

KILL CLIMATE DENIERS

While Amy Freed's *Shrew!* at South Coast Repertory was definitely a ringer, it also had the resources of that theater behind it. So why not our favorite group of Long Beachians, Garage Theatre, who secured the rights to be the first theater to mount the international ruckus that was *Kill Climate Deniers* years before it was first produced? The Breitbarts of the world pilloried the Australian writer for the title alone, but co-directors Ashley Elizabeth Allen and Matthew Anderson were adamant that the play dealt more with our increasing political polarization than actually killing the kind of people who should die.

Best Theater or Playhouse

SOUTH COAST REPERTORY

No, it's not fair. It has the longest history, the most established pedigree, the biggest subscriber base, and by far the most money. It uses actors you may even recognize! But now heading into its 55th year, SCR feels as if it has a pep in its step that nothing that old should have. Its 2017-18 season featured pieces by noted writers such as Tom Stoppard, Wendy Wasserstein and August Wilson, but it also included five world premieres. The new playwrights were of multiple ethnicities, genders and age ranges, and their concerns reflected that; it was one of the most diverse, if not *the* most diverse, seasons in SCR's history, a fitting way for Marc Masterson to cap his seven-year run as the theater's first artistic director who wasn't also a founder.

655 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-5555, www.scr.org

READERS' CHOICE: LONG BEACH PLAYHOUSE

Best Theatrical Ensemble

BIG FISH

Director Oanh Nguyen flawlessly directed this musical adaptation of the 2003 Tim Burton-helmed film for the Chance Theater. Everything about it was stellar—except the story. But that wasn't the fault of this exceptional ensemble. Whether called upon to act in the fantastic memory/dream sequences of the flawed man and storyteller at its heart (played superbly by Jeff Lowe) or more down-to-Earth people in the real world, the cast worked seamlessly together, the individual members never stealing focus or taking a Big Moment.

Best Play

DREAMERS: AQUÍ Y ALLÁ

It's rare that a new play—hell, any play—feels as relevant, poignant and important as this superlative effort. Presented by the graduate-level arm of Cal State Long Beach's theater department, California Repertory, the piece was conceived by Andrea Caban with plenty of assistance from the actors whose story this truly was: some 30 Dreamers who participated in CSULB professor Armando Vazquez-Ramos' California-Mexico study-abroad program. Though literally ripped from the headlines and suffused with an unmistakable call to action among voters to kick the racists out in the upcoming midterm elections, the play succeeded because it wasn't noisy, tone-deaf agit-prop theater. Its agenda was a human one: to show that the so-called Dreamers, as with any group, are comprised of individuals with their own hopes, dreams, fears and stories. By focusing on those stories, the cast and other creators succeeded in telling one hugely important part of America's

collective story

READERS' CHOICE: *THE BOOK OF MORMON*

Best Art Gallery

FOURTH ELEMENT GALLERY

Art galleries come and go in Orange County with the blink of an ego. While Fourth Element has only been around for a few months, we're not going out on much of a limb by saying that the work we've seen is intriguing and challenging. If curator Laura Black continues to secure the talent she has so far, we expect she'll break the gallery losing streak that downtown Santa Ana is known for.

210 N. Broadway Ave., Santa Ana, (657) 232-0002, www.facebook.com/4thelementgallery

READERS' CHOICE: LIVING ROOM SALON & ART GALLERY

Best Art Museum

HILBERT MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

A first-time appearance on our list, the museum has come a long way since it opened in 2016. What began as a repository for depressing, brown, narrative paintings has blossomed into a more colorful, lively, occasionally even experimental space for art. Under the watchful eye of director Mary Platt, its most recent exhibitions have included dynamic landscapes from artist Eyvind Earle, *Star Wars* art from Lucasfilm artist Robert Bailey, surf-culture paintings by John Severson and Rick Griffin, recent work by oil painter and former OC resident Bradford J. Salamon, as well as film cells and preparatory drawings from various Disney animators.

167 N. Atchison St., Orange, (714) 516-5888, www.hilbertmuseum.com

READERS' CHOICE: BOWERS MUSEUM

Best Curator

MIKE MCGEE

Orange County, especially Santa Ana, owes a lot to Mike McGee, a man whose résumé reads like a list of what we want to be when we grow up. From the Cal State Fullerton website, where he is the director of the Nicholas & Lee Begovich Gallery, an art professor, and head of the museum studies/exhibition design graduate program, we discovered that he has organized more than 200 exhibitions (more than a handful of which we've seen and fallen in love with); he's written essays and exhibition catalogs, he's founding board member of Arts Orange County and the City of Santa Ana Arts Commission; he was president of the board of trustees at the Orange County Center for Community Art; and he founded Grand Central Art Center. We're grateful for his hard work over the years, his introduction of so much great art to the county, and his patronage of different local artists. It wouldn't be the same without him.

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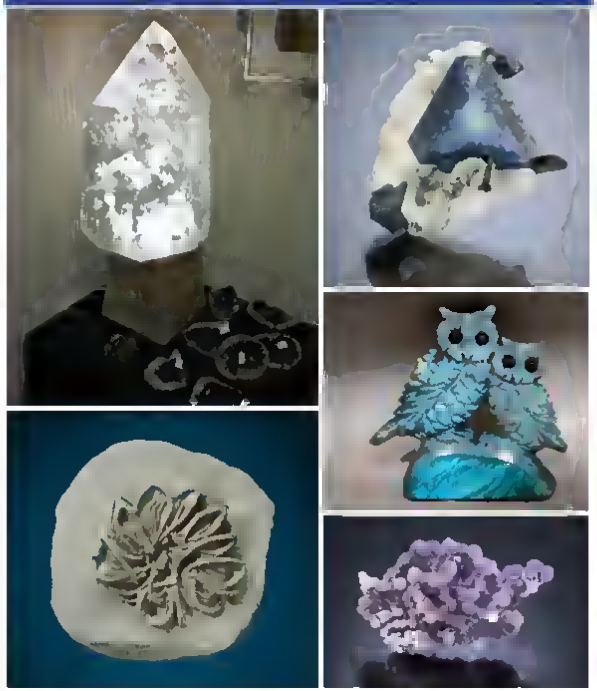

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mineralshowsLLD@gmail.com

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3050 Bristol St., Costa Mesa, CA. 92626

Best Public Art

CONNECTOR BY RICHARD SERRA

Commissioned in 2006 by the late Henry Segerstrom, we love every inch of this 65-foot-tall steel sculpture. Resting in the courtyard between the Segerstrom Center for the Arts and the Concert Hall, *Connector* resembles weather-beaten giants leaning in for a rusty embrace, even with its sharp edges. We can identify.

600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa

Best Visual Artist

KERRI SABINE-WOLF

An image of a man in a shooting stance, arms extended, pistol in both hands, his face swathed in a bouquet of butterflies. This is the world that Tustin painter Kerri Sabine-Wolf lives in, and when you look at her work, you're right there with her. Once interviewed for a column in a local magazine, her painting *Butterfly Effect* was rejected as too alienating to its readers. The piece was then submitted and rejected at the Great Park Gallery for similar reasons. In August, it won first place at the Irvine Fine Arts Center's "All-Media 2018." The piece speaks to so many things about our current gun crisis and does so without any overt politics—just counteracting the ugliness with beauty. The painting can be seen at Irvine Fine Arts Center (14321 Yale Ave., Irvine, 949-724-6880; www.cityofirvine.org) through Oct. 27, 2019.

www.facebook.com/kerri.sabinewolf, Instagram: @ksabinewolf

Best Karaoke

BIG'S AMERICAN SPORTS BAR & GRILL

During the day, enjoy a plate of buffalo wings and chicken strips with your kids, but after 9 p.m., send the rascals home in an Uber and enjoy a night full of drunks performing butchered versions of *Livin' On a Prayer*. Every Tuesday and Thursday, Big's American Sports Bar & Grill hosts lively karaoke nights with a crowd of all ages, including a plethora of Cal State Fullerton students. Both days include late-night happy-hour deals, but only Tuesday's come with $2 Coronas and Pacíficos. So, take a load off during the hectic workweek and drive over to Big's for some TLC while listening to a gnarly rendition of TLC's *Waterfalls*.

323 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton, (714) 526-4950, bigsfullerton.com

READERS' CHOICE: HOUSE OF BLUES AT ANAHEIM GARDENWALK

Best Newspaper

FULLERTON OBSERVER

Pound for pound, *Fullerton Observer* is the best free citywide paper in all of Orange County. Thanks to the careful guidance of editor-in-chief extraordinaire Jesse La Tour—he's also a former professor at Cal State Fullerton who's currently at Fullerton College, founder of the Fullerton Art Walk, owner of the Hibbleton Gallery, Fullerton historian *and* badass DJ at Mulberry Street, as well as a general all-around Mr. Nice Guy—the *Observer* flourishes in a time of lean print journalism. The volunteer-run community paper continuously and consistently punches above its weight class, putting out content that's relevant, well-researched and interesting every two weeks. And it's even free, ya cheap bastards, so pick up a copy next time you walk by a stand in Fullerton.

www.fullertonobserver.com

Best Nightclub

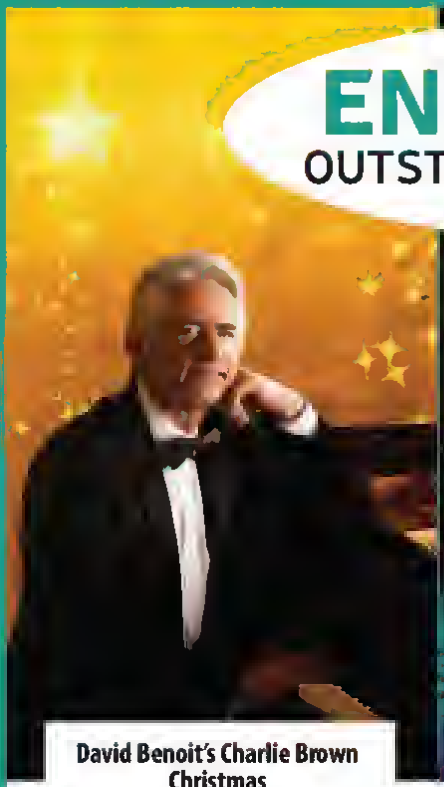
MULLBERRY STREET RISTORANTE'S ANTI-CLUB NIGHT

While out-of-town chuckleheads and college kids are chucking up their fifth Adios at the bars of downtown Fullerton, the real Fullerton/North County locals are at Mulberry Street every night after sundown. They skip the long lines and cover charges to instead enjoy the night at Mulberry's "anti-club" while sipping cocktails shaken by bartender Kevin Malone and listening to Mr. Fullerton himself Jesse La Tour spin obscure records as the colorful cast of characters from the Fullerton art colony chain smoke out front. The only thing missing from this place these days is a loud, late-night cameo appearance from the Einstein-esque (in both looks and intelligence) artist Bax Baxter!

114 W. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, (714) 525-1056, mulberryfullerton.com

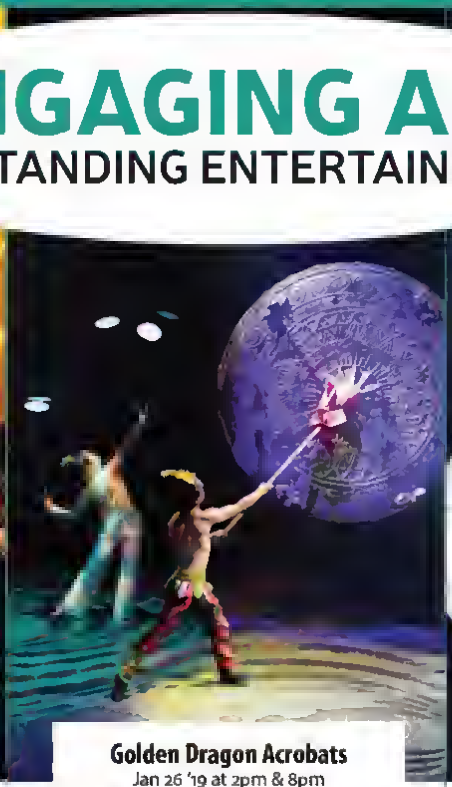
READERS' CHOICE: MOA WEDNESDAYS AT LA CAVE

ENGAGING ART
OUTSTANDING ENTERTAINMENT!



David Benoit's Charlie Brown Christmas
Dec 15 '18 at 8pm

Holiday show with cherished Vince Guaraldi tunes, starring five-time Grammy nominee jazz pianist David Benoit and a special appearance by the All-American Boys Chorus.



Golden Dragon Acrobats
Jan 26 '19 at 2pm & 8pm

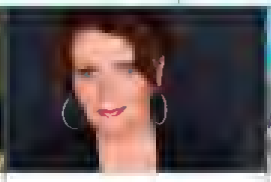
Hailing from the People's Republic of China, Golden Dragon Acrobats' athleticism combined with ancient and modern dance and music present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty.

Captain Scott Kelly - *The Sky Is Not The Limit: Lessons From A Year In Space*
Mar 9 '19 at 8pm

Sharing stories from his 143 million-mile adventure, Kelly provides his candid take on persistence, resilience and self-determination with his trademark humor, and humility.

Simon and Garfunkel [Revisited]
Nov 18 '18 at 2pm

Revisit that magical night in 1981 in Central Park!



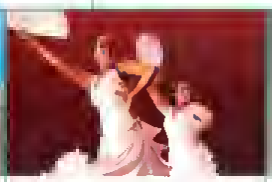
Maureen McGovern
Dec 12-13 '18 at 7pm

Two time Grammy nominee, Broadway singer, and recording artist—thrills with a voice that defies categorization

Capitol Steps
Make America Grin Again

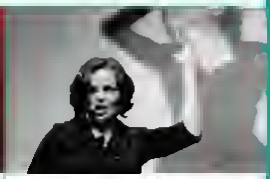
Jan 12 '19 at 2pm & 8pm

The Capitol Steps return with new up-to-the-minute political satire and song parodies that take aim at the outrageous political goings-on!



Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana
Feb 2 '19 at 8pm

Honoring the traditions of flamenco, including the Arabic, Gypsy and Sephardic Jewish influences of Andaluica, Santana's flamenco is a living art form and a vital part of Hispanic heritage



Piaf! The Show
Mar 17 '19 at 2pm

Piaf! The Show narrates the rags-to-riches story of the Parisian singer's career through her unforgettable songs, complemented by a visual tapestry of previously unreleased photographs and images of Edith Piaf's Paris

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Programming subject to change

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Best Rock Band

THE GROWLERS

If you are younger than 50 years old and haven't listened to the Growlers, then you are missing out on one of the most insanely fun music phenomenons in recent SoCal history: beach Goth. Although there are a few other local bands that are part of the scene, such as the Allah-lahs, beach Goth—a mix of surf rock, sea shanties and psychedelic music—will always be identified with the Growlers. Their early music, consisting of a somewhat tighter lineup but constricted by garage-quality acoustics, is worth exploring, particularly their debut, *Are You In or Out?*, as well as their third offering, *Hung at Heart*. Their constant evolution in sound and production lead to their biggest hit yet, *City Club*. Check them out at the next beach-Goth fest near you and feel the vapors!

READERS' CHOICE: HARLIS SWEETWATER BAND

Best Record Label

RAO CAT RECORDS

One of the biggest things you learn about covering the Orange County music scene is to not overlook its quietest areas. The fact that Mike and Casey Condia are running a rock-music label out of one of OC's sleepier cities is not only a well-kept secret (until now), but also an appropriately trippy contradiction. Their office and home are hardly reflective of the colorful, often-surreal sounds of their Rad Cat Records. Perhaps best known for albums from its marquee artist, Mr. Elevator & the Brain Hotel—as well as Gantez, Hammered Satin, Spendtime Palace and Chinese Wax Job—the label, founded officially in October 2014, finds a way to thrive as a small-time operation that's far greater than the sum of its parts.

Best Radio Station

KOCI-FM 101.5

Imagine a world where you can enjoy cool, seldom-heard tunes from legendary artists instead of music made for uncles washing their red Trans Ams in their driveways (think "Highway to Hell" or "Don't Stop Believin'" AGAIN). Luckily for us, KOCI-FM 101.5 broadcasts from a high-rise building in the bougie part of Newport-Mesa and is the closest thing Orange County has to pirate or college radio from the 1970s. Thanks to this independent, freeform radio station, we get to soak in the best B-sides and rarities from Led Zeppelin, the Doors, Stealers Wheel, Bob Dylan and more without hearing "Another Brick In the Wall" or "People Are Strange" for the zillionth time. It's like Little Steven's Underground Garage for those of us too cheap to pony up for a satellite-radio subscription.

www.kaciradio.com

READERS' CHOICE: KROQ

Best Punk Band

THE GRINNS

Blending surf rock with melodic pop-punk, the Grinns splashed onto the OC punk-rock scene with a sound that's perfect whether you're grabbing an IPA at Pizza Port in San Clemente or catching an autumn swell at river jetties. Earlier this year, they played at San Diego's You are Going to Hate This Festival with local pop-punk royalty Together Pangea and the Frights. Check out their debut digital album, *Golden Hour*, which debuted in January and is available on Bandcamp.

READERS' CHOICE: ADOLESCENTS

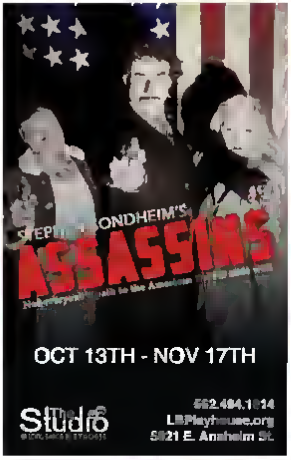
Best Strip Joint

FRITZ THAT'S IT!

Yeah, it's true that Fritz That's It in Anaheim is far from the Ritz of titty bars, but if it's good enough for all the major-league athletes in town wanting to unwind after they beat the Angels, music-industry bigwigs in town hoping to get a little nonky during NAMM and all the naughty nerds from Blizzard Entertainment looking for a break from the annual BlizzCon down the road, then it's good enough for you!

710 E Katella Ave, Anaheim, (714) 978-1828, fritzthatsit.net

READERS' CHOICE: THE LIBRARY GENTLEMEN'S CLUB



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10/21 AMANDA MIGUEL & DIEGO VERDAGUER
10/22 PRETTYMUCH W/ GUNNAR GEHL LOW TICKET ALERT
10/25 GD COUNTRY 105 PRESENTS CHRIS LANE W/ MASON RAMSEY & GABBY BARRETT
THE PARISH
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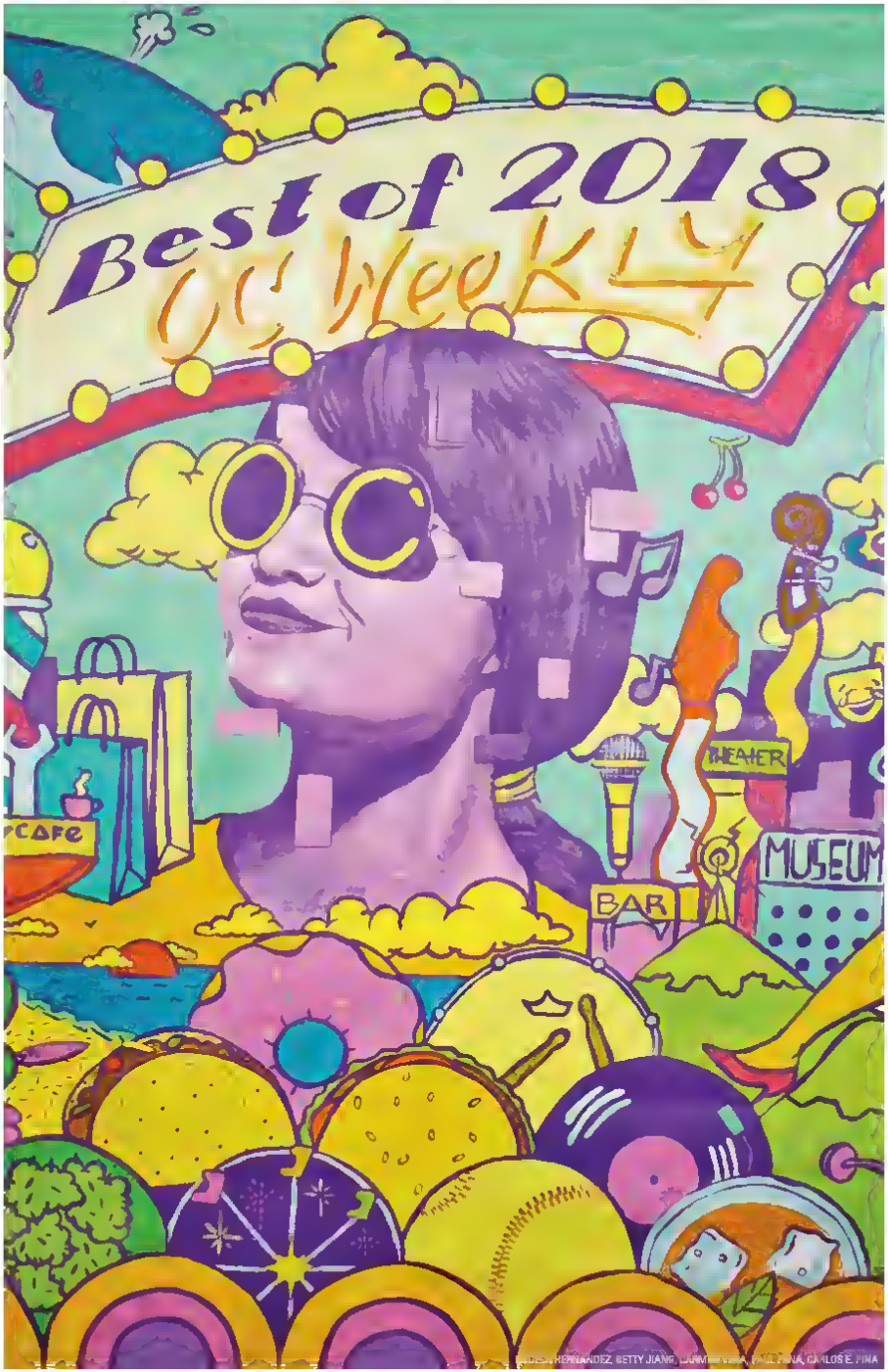

Best of the Arts & Entertainment

Best Local Celebrity

MICHAEL AVENATTI

This Newport Beach-based attorney who also owns a house on Lido sprang onto the national scene this year by representing porn actress Stormy Daniels in a lawsuit against Donald Trump. He used the suit as a springboard to become a talking head on all the cable-news channels and transformed himself into something of a deus ex machina, the bete noire of our spray-tan president and a future possible candidate for the top office himself. Go get 'em, boyo!

520 Newport Center Dr., Ste. 1400, Newport Beach, (949) 706-7000, avenatti.com

READERS' CHOICE: GWEN STEFANI

Best Local Music Festival

MUSIC TASTES GOOD

Each year, Music Tastes Good continues to up its game. So it was no surprise that 2018's *food* lineup was just as good as the musical one. Each version has delivered an expanded, more inclusive taste tent, allowing attendees to expand their culinary tastes via samples from a lineup of talented chefs, local and not. Pair the bites with the musical act of your choice, and you're guaranteed a great time!

mtgtb.co

READERS' CHOICE: OHANA MUSIC FESTIVAL

Best Cultural Center

CASA ROMANTICA CULTURAL CENTER AND GARDENS

This historic gem, with its magical Spanish mansion and water-wise gardens overlooking the sea, is a powerhouse in cultural programming. Art, music, theater, dance, horticulture and literary events happen year-round in the grand salon, central courtyard and Pacific-view terrace. Casa Romantica brings the work of international artists from as far away as Rwanda and as close as Baja to its gallery. Local dancers and theater-makers are routinely commissioned to create site-specific works that get the audience moving throughout the grounds and into nooks, octagonal rooms and the amphitheater. Free programming for kids

includes a two-week intensive music conservatory in the summers, plus storytelling and dance and arts workshops. Every year, Casa's calendar gets fuller and richer in scope.

415 Avenida Granada, San Clemente. (949) 498-2139, www.casaromantica.org

Best Hip-Hop Act
APOLLO BEBOP

Who got the jazz? Apollo Bebop got the jazz! Since forming in Santa Ana three years ago, the live hip-hop group bring daft musicality to a scene sorely in need. The quintet dropped their first full-length album, *Still Learnin'*, this year, a 10-track collection on which rapper Brian Gomez seamlessly rhymes over the band's vibes. DeAndre Grover's talent summons nostalgia for a time in hip-hop when saxophone samples defined a catchy chorus. Dom Cruz and Chris Trimmer keeps things slinky in the groove on guitar and bass. Donovan Cruz, the youngster in the group, is a future Art Blakey meets Questlove. Together, these cats possess chops that would've fit in smoothly at Steamers in Fullerton in its heyday just as easily as at any hip-hop venue in town. Apollo Bebop is cool like that, you dig?

www.facebook.com/Apollobebop

Best Indie Film Theater
THE FRIDA CINEMA

You don't have to be a stiff art-house nerd to enjoy what the Frida Cinema screens on a daily basis—although if you are, your tastes are easily catered to. What other film theater do you know of that holds genre all-nighters, quickly assembles screenings of movies featuring recently deceased stars, hosts experimental films scored by local bands, holds themed art shows in its lobby every month, has awesome murals covering its walls, arranges free screenings of nationally televised political events, brings excellent film festivals every year, and sells general-admission seats for the lowest price around? Not sure what we did to deserve the Frida, but we're glad it's here to stay.

305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (714) 245-9422, thefridacinema.org

READERS' CHOICE: THE FRIDA CINEMA

Best Drag Show
HAMBURGER MARY'S

Your eyes and ears are simply not ready for the fabulousness in store from all the amazing drag queens werking, twerking and death-dropping their padded asses off onstage. From the Dream Girls revue to the Façade Drag Show to Mary's Cabaret, everyone from the performers to the friendly staff provide an invigorating energy and chummy atmosphere that make you feel entertained and welcome at the same time. Not only will you encounter queens sashaying and lip-syncing to songs in front of the audience, but oftentimes, they'll circle the room and engage with audiences, yuk it up with jokes and banter, all while dressed to the nines in the most epic, showstopping costumes and makeup. Maybe you'll see a *RuPaul's Drag Race* alum, or maybe you'll see a queen perform a mind-blowing rendition of a song you love—either way, it's never a dull night. Don't forget to bring cash to tip the queens!

330 Pine Ave., Long Beach, (562) 436-7900, www.hamburgermarys.com

Best Political Protest
ANTI-ARPAIO PROTEST IN YORBA LINDA

In these Trump times, there's no shortage of outrages to hit the pavement. From the Women's March 2.0 to displaying disgust at family separations at the border, the resistance in OC has its walking shoes on. But an unlikely epicenter erupted in conservative Yorba Linda when its City Council teamed with the Federation for American Immigration Reform, a bona-fide hate group, to advance Attorney General Jeff Sessions' lawsuit against California's "sanctuary" laws. In this milieu, congressional candidate Phil Liberatore (and wannabe Trump) invited pardoned criminal, ex-Maricopa County sheriff and U.S. Senate candidate Joe Arpaio to town for a rally. Protesters from various groups vastly outnumbered Know Nothings—yes, in Yorba Linda! They denounced anti-immigrant policies and blew up an inflatable Rooster Trump to keep things fun. Liberatore and Arpaio's bids for elected office ended as defiated as the hot-air likeness of the president after the protest.

Best Movie Theater
REGENCY THEATRES DIRECTORS CUT CINEMA

While more theaters are making reserved seating the norm, Regency makes up for its first-come, first-serve policy by leveling up in every other way. Café-quality eats are freshly prepared and delivered to your seat. The extra attention paid to the bathrooms and extensive lobby area is noticeable. And you'll often find limited-release movies and sweet flashback films playing. The county is lucky to have such a gem.

25741 Rancho Niguel Rd., Laguna Niguel, (949) 831-4359, regencymovies.com

READERS' CHOICE: THE FRIDA CINEMA

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www.thecoachhouse.com

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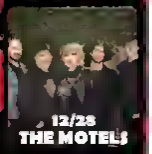
10/20 DENNIS QUAID AND THE SHARKS
10/21 DECEMBER 63 (FRANKIE VALLI TRIBUTE)
10/25 TAB BENOIT
10/26 FIVE FOR FIGHTING
10/27 BEE GEES GOLD *THE TRIBUTE*
10/28 COMEDY NIGHT w/ DOUG STARKS
10/31 OINGO BOINGO DANCE PARTY
11/2 DAVID BRIGHTON'S SPACE ODDITY
11/3 AMBROSIA
11/7 WILLIE K / ERIC SARDINAS
11/9 AMERICA
11/10 AMERICA
11/11 RICKIE LEE JONES / ALFRED JOHNSON
11/14 THE WIND AND THE WAVE
11/15 THE KINGSTON TRIO
11/16 JOHN MAYALL
11/17 AN EVENING WITH RICHIE FURAY
11/18 MICHAEL TOMLINSON
11/20 AN UNPREDICTABLE EVENING WITH TODD RUNDGREN
11/21 AN UNPREDICTABLE EVENING WITH TODD RUNDGREN
11/23 LA GUNS
11/24 SIMPLE MAN (LYNYRD SKYNYRD TRIBUTE)
11/29 BAND OF FRIENDS (A CELEBRATION OF RORY GALLAGHER)
11/30 DSB
12/1 WHICH ONE'S PINK? *PERFORMING DARK SIDE OF THE MOON*
12/2 DWEEZIL ZAPPA
12/5 SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS
12/6 JOHNNY LANG / ZANE
12/7 JOHNNY LANG / ZANE
12/8 LED ZEPAGAIN
12/9 DAVE ALVIN AND JIMMIE DALE GILMORE
12/14 GARY HOEY
12/15 ROBERT CRAY
12/16 PROJECT PRESLEY (ELVIS PRESLEY TRIBUTE)
12/22 THE ENGLISH BEAT
12/23 AN EVENING WITH DAVID BENOIT: CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS



UPCOMING SHOWS

12/27 DDHAVDH FRAHKEHREITER
12/28 MARTHA DAVIS AND THE MDTELS
12/28 QUEEH NATIOH
12/31 BEATLES VS STONES – A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN
1/12 DESPERADD
1/17 THE MAGPIE SALUTE
1/18 TDMMY CASTRD
1/23 ANA PDPOVIC
1/25 BIG HEAD TODD & THE MDHSTERS
1/27 AHNA HALICK
2/2 THE DAH BAHD
2/10 THE SMITHEREEHS WITH GUEST VOCALIST MARSHALL CRENSHAW
2/14 OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA HEGRA
2/24 THE FDUR FRESHMEN
3/10 THE SPIHHERS
3/21 ULI JDH RDTH
4/18 AN EVENING WITH THE MUSICAL BDX
5/25 DICK DALE
6/7 ASIA FT. JOHN PAYNE
6/20 HERMAH'S HERMITS
6/21 HERMAH'S HERMITS

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Best Podcast

I KNOW BUT . . .

In the era of emails and text messages, *I Know But* has taken on the epic task of indulging in the art of conversation. The dream team of Niyaz Purani and Jeff Fliegler have spoken with some of Orange County's most interesting movers and shakers. You can ruminate on the importance of tradition with Pascal Olhats, one of the most revered chefs in OC. You can talk tiki with Costa Mesa's tiki ambassador and lead singer of the Hula Girls, Spike Marble. And—shameless self-plug—you even can get to know several Weeklings, including Long Beach Lunch columnist Sarah Bennett, music maestro Nate Jackson and local historian Taylor Hamby.

www.iknowbutpodcast.com

READERS' CHOICE: GRANTEO RADIO

Best Museum

DISCOVERY CUBE ORANGE COUNTY

Whether you're a kid or a kid at heart, you can spend HOURS at this constantly innovating campus. Easily spotted thanks to its giant, solar-panel-lined cube, the museum hosts permanent learning experiences about dinosaurs, space exploration, hockey, ecology, water and more. And the rotating exhibits keep things interesting; currently, you can try your hand at being part of a pride while discovering new information about lions on the African Savanna. There are regular stage shows and 3D screenings, plus seasonal parties. During the winter holidays, the gingerbread-creation contest is both epic and not to be missed.

2500 N. Main St., Santa Ana, 714-542-2823, www.discoverycube.org

"RUCKUS" BY PAUL PENA

READERS' CHOICE: AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

Best Quote

TONY RACKAUCKAS

"We're not backing down or walking on eggshells." Unaware he was being recorded, District Attorney Tony Rackauckas boasts that chronic prosecutorial misconduct in his office will continue if he wins a sixth term in November's election against challenger Todd Spitzer.

Best Venue for Live Comedy

ANCHOR BAR

Breaking into standup comedy is possibly the most uncomfortable undertaking known to humanity. Only a masochist would willingly stand onstage and flounder through five minutes of "new material" while 50 faces remain motionless through every punchline. For those brave (or stupid) fools, there's no better starting place than the Anchor Bar, with its friendly, ready-to-laugh crowd. Every Monday night, Evan "the Cass Man" Cassidy hosts a crew of new standups amidst the tikis, fish nets and half-nude paintings.

2475 Irvine Ave., Costa Mesa, (949) 574-4995

READERS' CHOICE: IRVINE IMPROV

Best Place for Country Music/Line Dancing

COWBOY COUNTRY SALOON

Being a country music fan in SoCal can be hard, but Cowboy Country Saloon is an authentic, refreshing escape from standard nightclubs. Inside the huge barn, you'll find a mix of both old and new music on multiple dance floors—and if you get there early enough, you can even learn some new moves.

3321 E. South St., Long Beach, (562) 430-3007, www.cowboycountry.mu

READERS' CHOICE: THE RANCH RESTAURANT & SALOON

OC WEEKLY BEST OF 2018

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10 TIME WINNER

Best Live Band

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Best Downtown

GAROEN GROVE'S HISTORIC OOWNTOWN

This up-and-coming historic district is most popular for two things the well-known Strawberry Festival and California's only Elvis Festival (during August, Garden Grove's self-appointed Elvis Month). But these events aren't Garden Grove's Historic Downtown's only claim to fame. During California's longest-running Friday car show, shiny, classic vehicles cruise past the vintage shops and thrift stores that embellish Main Street. And the many independent coffee shops invite you to chat with their owners. Despite the city's sleepy reputation, this downtown is worth a stroll.

Main Street and Euclid Avenue Garden Grove www facebook.com/Historic-Main-Street-Garden-Grove-CA-198900126830799/

READERS' CNOICE: SANTA ANA

Best Trend

TIKI

We've had an influx of island lifestyle in OC not seen since the summer of 1963, when Walt Disney brought his Enchanted Tiki Room to town. The power of the Polynesian islands has been calling hard to the mainland. If you've been invited to a party this year, chances are it's been tiki-themed. Tropical baptisms, birthdays, bar mitzvahs, bank openings—you name it, there's a colorful plastic lei and pour-your-own mai tai bar waiting for you.

READERS' CNOICE. NO STRAW CAMPAIGN

Best Tattoo Parlor

BLACK UMBRELLA TATTOO ANO ART GALLERY

Garden Grove native Kurtis Gibson has built Black Umbrella Tattoo and Art Gallery into the quintessential art studio. local artists of all styles are featured, art workshops are offered, and tattooers collaborate with clients to create unique works of art. Adding recognition to Gibson's reknown are Cynthia Flores, Marco Gomez, Blake Aiken and Steven Rascon, who are well-known for their black-and-gray as well as American traditional tattoos.

12951 Main St , Garden Grove, (714) 638-4644, blackumbrellaart.com

READERS' CNOICE: MULE TATTOO

Best Bookstore

BOOKMAN

Bookman, son of the late Book Baron, has been slinging used books for just shy of 30 years from its Tustin Avenue storefront in Orange. When news hit this year that Bookman was being forced to move because its long-term lease was ending, pearls were understandably clutched with dread. You'll have to forgive bibliophiles if they seem a bit triggered by the news, but they've been down this road before, losing beloved brick-and-mortar booksellers as early new chapter in the Amazon age unfolds. But in a delightful plot twist—and with the help of the community it has served for a few generations—Bookman lives on in new digs in the same city. We're looking forward to reading the next book in the beloved Bookman series: Bookman III: Tales From Katella Avenue!

320 E Katella Ave Orange, (714) 538-0166, www ebookman com

READERS' CHOICE: RARNES & NORLE

Best Manicure/ Pedicure

ALL ABOUT NAILS

A chalkboard display with the day's deals and "Have a nice day" scrawled across it invites you into All About Nails, a husband-and-wife-owned salon in downtown Brea. Teetering on the edge of the Orange County line, Amy treats every customer as though they're Jesus in disguise. She is aware of your presence the moment you walk in, and she does whatever she can to make sure you are relaxed—including offering a free coconut cookie and a bottle of cold water—as she herds you toward a massage chair. And this is all before you even utter what kind of service you want. Whether you want general upkeep on your nails or a bold fashion statement, Amy and her husband, Calvin, will take care of you.

592 S Brea Blvd , Brea, (714) 900-6172

READERS' CNOICE: GLO NAIL RAR

Best Car Wash

BEACH-LIN HANO CAR WASH

Beach-Lin Hand Car Wash in Anaheim is so much more than a standard service—it's an experience. While "Beach-Lin" (for its location on Lincoln Avenue and Beach Boulevard) doesn't have the same ring to it as the neighboring "Linbrook" Bowl (Lincoln and Brookhurst Street), both are surviving, authentic relics of midcentury space-age architecture. This retro-futuristic building has more boomerangs than a De Castro Sisters song. Done in the popular Googie style, this car wash not only sudses your ride, but it also sucks your vehicle into a time-warp-like vortex.

126 S Beach Blvd , Anaheim (714) 952 3719, www facebook com/pages/Beach-Lin-Hand-Car-Wash/1461237620945B5

READERS' CNOICE: RUSSELL FISCHER CAR CARE CENTER

OCWEEKLY BEST OF 2018

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2018 BEST OF READERS' POLL
The following have been voted the best in the Cannabis category

BEST ADULT STORE
SPANKY'S ADULT EMPORIUM
Santa Ana
www.spankysonline.com

BEST BARBER SHOP
AMERICAN BARBERSHOP
Santa Ana
americanbarbershop.com

BEST BIKE SHOP
JAX BICYCLE CENTER
Multiple Locations
www.jaxbicycles.com

BEST BODY SHOP
FOUNTAIN VALLEY BODYWORKS
Multiple Locations
www.fvbodyworks.com

BEST BOOKSTORE
BARNES & NOBLE
Multiple Locations
www.barnesandnoble.com

BEST CAR WASH
RUSSELL FISCHER CAR CARE CENTER
Multiple Locations
www.russellfischer.com

BEST CLOTHING BOUTIQUE
COSTA CABANA
Costa Mesa
costacabana.shop

BEST COMIC BOOK STORE
COMICS TOONS N' TOYS
Tustin
www.facebook.com/ComicsTNT

BEST DOWNTOWN
SANTA ANA

BEST FURNITURE STORE
HEATHER ROTH FINE ART
Huntington Beach
www.heatherrothfineart.com

BEST HAIR REMOVAL
OOWNTOWN SUGAR
Santa Ana
www.downtownsugar.com

BEST HOTEL
LAGUNA BEACH INN
Laguna Beach
www.thelagunabeachinn.com

BEST LAWYER
ALI RAZAVI
Santa Ana
www.razavilawgroup.com

BEST LIQUOR STORE
HI-TIME WINE CELLARS
Costa Mesa
www.hitimewine.net

BEST MANICURE/PEDICURE
GLO NAIL BAR
Multiple Locations
www.glonailbar.com

BEST MASSAGE
HERE & NOW WELLNESS
www.hereandnowwellnessmassage.com

BEST MECHANIC
KYLE LINT
Mission Viejo
www.lintautomotive.com

BEST PLACE FOR SHOPPING
SOUTH COAST PLAZA
Costa Mesa
www.southcoastplaza.com

BEST PLACE TO GET PIERCED
BARBELLA STUDIOS
Costa Mesa
www.barbellastudios.com

BEST RECORD/CD STORE
BEATNIK BANDITO MUSIC EMPORIUM
Santa Ana
www.beatnikbandito.com

BEST SKATE SHOP
VANS
Multiple Locations
www.vans.com

BEST SURF SHOP
HUNTINGTON SURF & SPORT
Multiple Locations
www.hsssurf.com

BEST TANNING SALON
TROPIC TAN
Tustin
tropictantustin.com

BEST TATTOO PARLOR
MULE TATTOO
Tustin
muletattoo.com

BEST TOURIST ATTRACTION
DISNEYLAND RESORT
Anaheim
disneyland.disney.go.com

BEST TREND
NO STRAW CAMPAIGN

BEST USED BOOKSTORE
THE BOOKMAN
Orange
www.ebookman.com

BEST VAPE SHOP
E-CIG GALLERY
Multiple Locations
www.e-ciggallery.com

BEST VINTAGE STORE
BUFFALO EXCHANGE
Multiple Locations
www.buffaloexchange.com

Best Pet Supply

FEED BARN

Unless it's sound asleep, a cheerful, Flemish, giant breed of rabbit named Bubba will greet you at the Feed Barn's door. Bunnies from across the county send their owners here for the Timothy Hay, the best of all varieties. But it's not just for the cotton-tails: Feed Barn is a one-stop shop for all your pets, be they standard poodles, goats, cockatiels or horses. Buy your chicks here, too. Locally owned and operated by in-the-know folks, Feed Barn is the opposite of a big-box with even better prices. You can even give Fido a bath for a small fee at the wash station. Then reward your clean pal to such fun stuff as Critter Toys' Atomic Nutball or a raw lamb femur, so it can get stinky again right away.

34192 Doheny Park Rd., Capistrano Beach, (949) 445-6713, www.facebook.com/ocfeedbarn

Best Massage

TARALAI THAI MASSAGE

Thanks to word-of-mouth raves from its regulars and walk-ins, Taralai Thai Massage expanded its hours and began offering couples' massages as well as a five-massage package deal for frequent visitors. What hasn't changed are the smiles that greet you in this elegantly tranquil space. If you've never tried traditional Thai massage, it's something different that diminishes stress, improves circulation, and reduces muscle duress and strain. Taralai's highly trained practitioners are also adept at Swedish and deep-tissue massage, so be candid about what ails you for a customized combination that will cure, relax and free your body and mind.

31681 Camino Capistrano, Ste. 101, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 388-4400, www.taralaimassage.com

READERS' CHOICE: HERE & NOW WELLNESS

Best Used Bookstore

LIBROMOBILE

It has been years since SanTana has had a local bookstore helping to nourish the minds of its residents. When author Sarah Rafael García returned from Austin, Texas, she wasted no time in creating LibroMobile. The literacy project first took the form of a traveling bookcase before finding a nook in a staircase at 4th Street Market. But with used-book donations filling crates, LibroMobile literally outgrew its digs and is now occupying a garage in downtown Santa Ana. From there, García has published zines for local poets and hosted readings with visiting authors. Its bumble shelves are filled with the best in Chicanx literature, poetry, science fiction, children's books, history, politics *y libros en español! Gracias* to García, all these tomes have a place to call home.

220 E. Fourth St., Ste. 107, Santa Ana, (657) 205-9907, www.libromobile.com.

READERS' CHOICE: ROCKMAR

Best Furniture Store

STEWART ROTH'S FURNITURE

What is Fountain Valley if not the furniture capital of Orange County? Along the bend of the 405 freeway, there are stores galore for those looking for a new bedroom set or dining table. Amid the multitude, Stewart Roth's Furniture distinguishes itself with the precious woodwork of the Amish. The low-tech, rural religious folk live largely as they did a few centuries ago, and that includes making quality furniture from sturdy hardwoods. Having been in the furniture-selling business for 45 years now, Stewart Roth networked with Amish craftsmen to bring their wares to Fountain Valley. The best part is you won't have to travel all the way out to Amish Country for that perfect rocking chair, as Stewart Roth's is close enough for a buggy ride!

18211 Euclid St., Fountain Valley, (714) 751-1922, stewartrothfurniture.com

READERS' CHOICE: HEATHER ROTH FINE ART

Best Tourist Attraction

RICHARD NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM

Tricky Dick may have been a soonfabitch, but he's our sonofabitch. Right down to his Yorba Linda boyhood home, the Richard Nixon Presidential Library & Museum is a conservative tourist haven. But even the most liberal among us have to admit the White House replica rooms are pretty neat and the grounds immaculately kept. Besides, the Jowls-in-Chief was a worthy adversary, and this museum is less of a historical whitewash than in years past. There's rock-throwing Venezuelans, the House Un-American Activities Committee and presidential meetings with Mao Zedong to recount. Oh, and that whole Watergate thing, too! Complete your visit by heading over to Nixon's headstone and whispering sweet curses for all the ills in the world he inspired. Can't do that at Disneyland!

18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda (714) 993-5075, www.nixonlibrary.gov

READERS' CHOICE: DISNEYLAND RESORT

DANIEL RAMIREZ

Best Canine Party Planner

OC DOG PARTY

Throw your pup the most bitchen birthday party ever. The Bacon & Champagne bash comes with, yes, a pound of bacon in a designer dog bowl, an irresistible Poochie Charcuterie Platter, a fire-hydrant-shaped drink dispenser, custom digital invites, swag bags for 10, a "NO CATS ALLOWED" sign, too-cute décor, treats for humans and more. Yappy Hour or a Wag-N-Weed party with legal cannabis treats celebrate whatever you want! Throw a fundraiser with a pooch kissing booth! Any idea you have, these party animals will throw down a shindig not soon forgotten. And potty clean up is always complimentary.

www.ocdogparty.com

Best Surf Shop

FROG HOUSE

If you win an award twice, you're great, three times, you're a legend. But if you win four times or more, you're the undisputed GOAT. After being named OC's top surf shop in 2010, 2012 and 2017, Frog House might as well keep its Sticky Bumps-coated *OC Weekly* Best Surf Shop trophy permanently on its premises—if it has any room for it. Open since 1962, the shop is filled wall to wall with new, used and vintage surfboards of all sizes, plus a barrage of T-shirts, wetsuits and sunglasses. Don't be startled by the plaster shark's head jutting through the wall, the buck-toothed Popeye mannequin or the lock-less bathroom covered with pictures of legendary Frog House parties gone wrong. Frog House's knowledgeable staff are there to help get you into the water.

6900 W. Coast Hwy., Newport Beach, (949) 642-5690

READERS' CHOICE: HUNTINGTON SURF & SPORT

Best Hotel

LA CASA DEL CAMINO

Looking for a romantic spot to celebrate an anniversary? A weekend getaway to forget the stress of everyday life? This beachfront boutique hotel is a veritable Orange County landmark. Built in 1929, it was a hotspot for Hollywood stars. Today, you can choose among 36 rooms, including 10 "surf suites," each paying homage to local surf culture. Spend your days relaxing on the beach and your nights enjoying happy hour at either the hotel's Rooftop Lounge or the Kya Bistro Bar.

2289 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 497-4029, www.lacasadelcamino.com

READERS' CHOICE: LAGUNA BEACH INN

Best Library

SANTA ANA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Under the helm of senior librarian David Lopez, Santa Ana Public Library has become one of the best in not only the county, but also the state. With thousands

of books and daily events, Santa Ana Public Library shows how libraries remain important community centers that can't be replaced by Amazon.

26 Civic Center Plaza Santa Ana, (714) 647-5250, www.ci.santa-ana.ca.us/library

Best Skate Shop
FOCUS BOARDSHOP

For kids who grew up skating at Etnies Skatepark in Lake Forest, Focus Boardshop is the only place to buy a deck, fix hardware, hide from the cops, or hassle a local pro for that extra pair of unreleased shoes they stole from the Sole Tech warehouse across the street. Independently owned and operated by a handful of talented and knowledgeable skaters, Focus sponsored the (in)famous Goofy vs. Regular competition and groomed the impressionable kids of Etnies to become fearless animals who wouldn't hesitate to tre-flip the 11-stair at any moment. Local legend—and Focus rider—Aidan Campbell recently turned pro for Foundation Skateboards and Etnies shoes. But fret not, as Campbell and former Focus kids still swing by—if only to siphon free gear just like back in the day.

20025 Lake Forest Dr., Ste. 103, Lake Forest, (949) 595-4389

READERS' CHOICE: VANS

Best Swap Meet
LONG BEACH ANTIQUE MARKET

Whether you're looking for great deals or just a fun way to spend a weekend, the Long Beach Antique Market is the place to be. On the third Sunday of every month, more than 800 vendors selling everything from furniture to art to clothing fill the 20 acres around Long Beach Veterans Stadium that make up the market. You'll never leave empty-handed.

Long Beach Veterans Stadium, 4901 E. Conant St., Long Beach, (323) 655-5703, www.longbeachantiquemarket.com

Best Place for Shopping
THE MARKET PLACE

The best thing about the Market Place? The ability to access nearly all stores from two driveways. The Target is open until midnight every day but Sunday. Sprouts is convenient for produce. Orangetheory, 24 Hour Fitness, Bike 2 the Beat and Corepower can get your sweat on. Current movies at the Edwards cinema and browsing at Barnes & Noble keep you entertained, while Nordstrom Rack and newly built Sephora give reasons to avoid all the other malls. Bonus points for restaurant expansions such as Snooze, an A.M. Eatery and Texas de Brazil.

2961 El Camino Real, Tustin, (714) 730-4124, www.shopthemarketplace.com

READERS' CHOICE: SOUTH COAST PLAZA

Best Adult Store
PINK KITTY BOUTIQUE

Sure, you can find butt plugs, ropes, nipple cuffs or yoni eggs on the shelves of any adult store, but what if you don't know how to actually use them? Not only does the Pink Kitty provide said risqué items for your pleasure, but it also offers special classes to help curious couples and kinky individuals of all levels of expertise learn how to maximize their bedroom time. If you prefer to stay vanilla or don't have the time to take a class, the congenial staff will field your questions and recommend items in-store for all your sensual needs. The main aim for this Irvine-based store is to spread a sex-positive outlook and provide everyone the right education for the best consensual experience possible. Besides that, you'll find a wide selection of lingerie for bodies of all sizes, DVD smut, and classic bachelorette supplies to give any bride a "One Penis Forever" send-off party she'll never forget.

17955 Sky Park Circle, Ste. A, Irvine (949) 660-4990

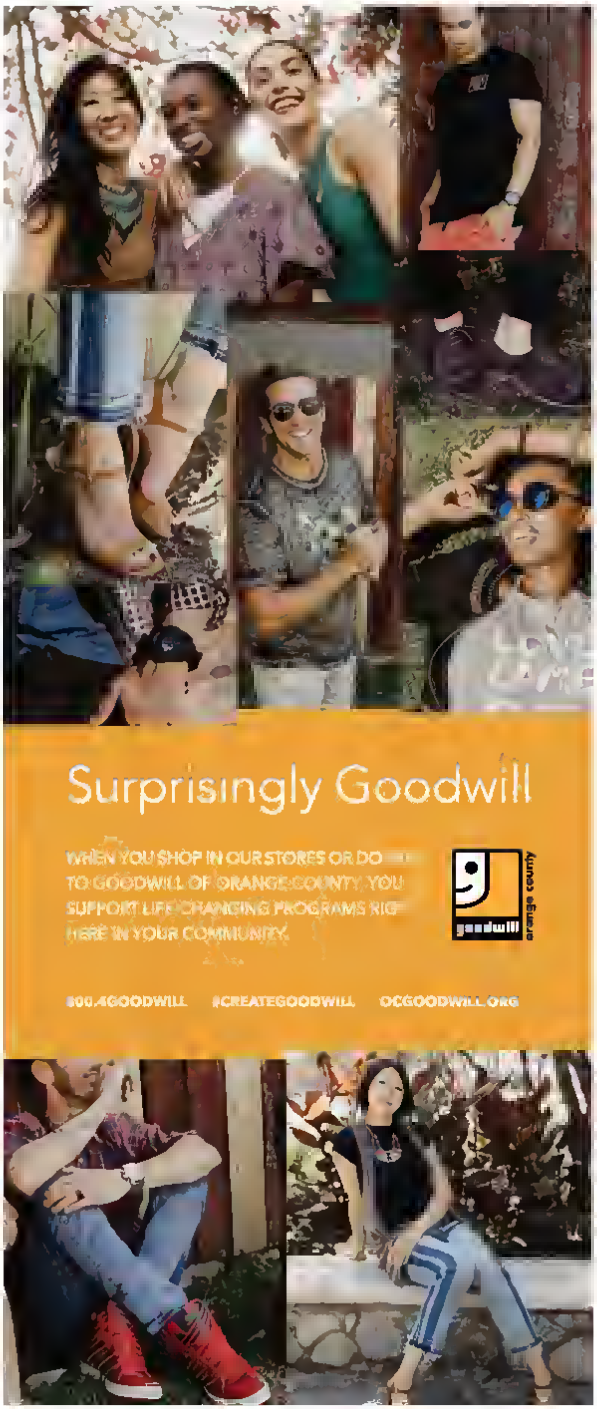
READERS' CHOICE: SPANKY'S ADULT EMPORIUM

Best Clothing Boutique
GUNTHERS SUPPLY CO.

Sometime within the past five years, men's workwear became a hot look for young men with discerning sartorial tastes. Enter Gunthers Supply Co., who've carried on this punky blue-collar aesthetic since opening a brick-and-mortar store in 2014. Reflecting a style that intersects workwear and streetwear with SanTana pride, the small shop hosts a collection of brands, including Loser Machine, Pendleton, Brixton, Dickies, Suavecito, Dr. Martens, Ben Davis and more, as well as Gunthers' own line of hoodies, tanks, coats and accessories. What's even better is the prices are damn affordable for the demographic it represents, attracting gents (and even ladies) from Southern California and beyond.

324 W. Fourth St., Santa Ana (714) 702-5002, gunthers.co

READERS' CHOICE: COSTA CABANA


Surprisingly Goodwill
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TO GOODWILL OF ORANGE COUNTY, YOU
SUPPORT LIFE-CHANGING PROGRAMS RIG
HERE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.
goodwill orange county
800.4GOODWILL #CREATEGOODWILL OCGOODWILL.ORG

Best Comic Book Store

COMICS TOONS N' TOYS

Considering how small this shop is, it's a wonder it can fit so many books in one space. Not only will you find a wide selection of variant editions, but you'll also come across plenty of classic and contemporary graphic novels, back issues, manga, collectibles, action figures, clothing, cards and more. Hell, you couldn't find a selection this good unless you trekked to Comic-Con. Thanks to its incredible organization (and friendly staff), you can get almost every genre of comic book there is to find—and at prices that give Amazon a run for its money.

13542 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 730-2117
www.facebook.com/ComicsTNT/

READERS' CHOICE: COMICS TOONS N' TOYS

Best Costume Store

GASOLINE ALLEY

Halloween isn't the only time of the year this strip-mall-located costume store is packed with locals looking for exceptional costumes. Everyone from young punks to stars of *The Real Housewives of Orange County* have browsed the many racks of vintage, retro and used outfits for any and every occasion you'd need a disguise for. Its small exterior belies the enormous expanse that waits inside. In addition to animal prints and accessories, you'll find records, memorabilia, old movie posters and all manner of eccentric signage adorning the walls like a wild patchwork quilt. Outfits and styles are arranged by theme and era, from Renaissance to *Miami Vice*, and even after you find what you're looking for, there are plenty more fashionable pieces you'll covet for your everyday wardrobe.

3804 E. Chapman Ave., Ste. D, Orange, (714) 639-6550, gasolinealleycostumes.com

Best Vintage Store

JOYRIDE VINTAGE FOR MEN/ELSEWHERE VINTAGE FOR WOMEN

There's no better way to pad out your wardrobe with one-of-a-kind pieces than by buying vintage. The problem is finding them. That's where Joyride and Elsewhere come in. The two stores, owned by married couple Robert and Kristine Houston and conveniently situated next door to each other, offer a highly curated selection of mostly pre-1970s vintage clothing. Located in a 1920s storefront in the heart of Old Towne Orange, the accessories, decorations and tunes playing over the speakers will transport you back in time. And the highly savvy owners will gladly help you find whatever you need—be it an evening gown for an elegant night on the town or a 70-year-old field jacket to keep in your car in case of unexpected rain.

Joyride Vintage, 109 W. Chapman Ave., Orange, (714) 771-2118, joyridevintage.com
Elsewhere Vintage, 105 W. Chapman Ave., Orange, (714) 771-2116, elsewherevintage.com

READERS' CHOICE: BUFFALO EXCHANGE

FREEHUMANITY, LAURA CAMPEAU, CINTHIA HERNANDEZ, ANA L. ROJO

Meet Milanes

Best of OC: Newest Body Shaping Doctor

BRAND STORY

Since he was 15 years old Dr Robert Milanes, M.D has dedicated his life to helping others through his passion of practicing medicine He volunteered in children's clubs at a young age and always felt like it was his obligation to help people and his duty to help others around the world with their health Dr Milanes has always believed that if you work hard you can do anything and that is what he strives to offer his patients in his new Body Shaping Center! Located in Irvine, Dr Milanes hopes to make people feel good about themselves from the outside in He wants to pair healthy eating, weightloss and his newest device the Emsculpt® to help people reach their body goals.

We sat down with Dr. Milanes to find out how his practice, Luminary MD, is taking over Orange County with the first and only device to sculpt muscle, the Emsculpt®!

What makes your practice unique to Orange County?

Luminary MD is the first body shaping facility that incorporates wellness into their treatment plans Each treatment is specialized to the meet the concerns of the patient creating lasting results My practice is unique because it focuses on the individual and their well being, body concerns and results I want people to not just attack their body goals aesthetically, but pair it with medical techniques, such as helping them with their diet, IV therapy and exercise programs That is why I have invested in the Emsculpt®!

What are you most excited about ?

I am so excited to help people reach their body goals Body contouring is hot right now and that's for a reason. Patients are getting rid of stubborn fat without any pain or downtime, it's great! I have just introduced the Emsculpt® into my practice, which is a brand new device that is FDA cleared to sculpt muscle! It's HIFEM (high intensity focused electromagnetic therapy) focuses on eliciting supramaximal contractions of the abdomen and buttocks to get a trimmer, stronger, and healthier look. We are the only office in Irvine to have this revolutionary technology that just hit the market this spring With this device I can help people lose weight naturally through diet and exercise, feel more confident about the lifestyle changes I have helped them make and then the icing on the cake is the extra tone and muscle sculpting that they can show off on the beach with the Emsculpt®.

What is your best selling treatment?

Hands Down, Emsculpt®. Patients have been so happy with the results and it only takes a half hour per treatment It contracts muscle groups to build muscle and destroy fat all without cutting! So anyone can come in for a 30 minute session, twice a week for 2 weeks! They only need 4 treatments and the results are awesome! No pain, no downtime and it's completely non-invasive!

What do you do outside of work?

I am a busy guy, but the most important and fun part of my life are my wife and 3 kids! We go to Disneyland regularly, especially after I work a shift in the ER because it's a great way for me to decompress and enjoy my time with my family I do love to travel and more often than not you can find me volunteering in Morocco or chilling on the beach with my family Recently I have become a member with Orangetheory Fitness and have continued boxing in my free time, so I can practice what I preach with my patients! Balancing that busy schedule is key and I may not be the best at it but I have a ton of fun doing it!

From his dedication in the emergency room to opening up his new practice, Dr Milanes is ready to bring the hottest aesthetic treatments to Orange County Stop by and meet OC's Newest Body Shaping Doctor of 2018!

New Office, New You

To celebrate the grand opening of Luminary MD, the first 50 patients to sign up for Emsculpt® treatments will receive 20% off any IV therapy! Call today to receive Exclusive OC Weekly Promo!

luminarymd.com

@luminary_md

(949) 522-5081

62 Corporate Park Suite 245
Irvine, CA 92606

Best Nursery
LAGUNA HILLS NURSERY

Gary Matsuoka's Laguna Hills Nursery is a botanical wonderland for novice and professional gardeners. Its blink-and-you'll-miss-it location off Tustin Avenue carries a large array of ornamental and rare plants, annuals and perennials, fruits, vegetables, and trees, as well as pots and products for all your gardening needs, including a potting soil mix that Matsuoka makes himself. The family-owned business also offers weekend classes, so wannabe green thumbs can learn how to make those tomato plants grow.

1829 N. Tustin Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 542-5600, www.lagunahillsnursery.com

Best Used Clothing Store
DEELUX

Thanks to how well it stocks its store with gently used items that are both on-trend and timelessly chic, DeeLux continually gets Best Of love. Now that it has moved to a larger location in Old Towne Orange, even more items can fit on the racks to suit a wider range of tastes, all without sacrificing DeeLux's mission to provide a well-curated selection. The buy-sell-trade process is less strenuous here than at other shops: Browse freely through the boutique or simply walk around Old Towne until you receive a text from the store letting you know your sale is ready, allowing the buyers a chance to scope through your garments in a timely manner and without wasting your time. Although the inventory at DeeLux is mostly recycled, you can find some ultra-hip new clothing as well, along with knickknacks, funky housewares, eyewear, jewelry, hermetic books and other eclectic items.

132 S. Glassell St., Orange, (714) 202-5483, mydeelux.com

Best Bike Shop
THE CYCLIST

The most awesome thing about this place is how much product—bikes, parts, accessories—the staff manage to stuff into the rectangular space (including from the ceiling). Second in most awesomeness is how it's set up for all levels of riders, from kids just off training wheels to boozy beach cruisers to daredevil mountain bikers to marathoning corporatists to eager elderlies hanging in thanks to electric bicycles. Making sure you stay stuck to your seat is the expert service staff that turns repairs around faster than you can say, "Fix my flat?"

1785 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, (949) 645-8691, www.thecyclist.com

READERS' CHOICE: JAX BICYCLE CENTER

Best Place to Get Pierced
OUTER LIMITS TATTOO

When the owner of your tattoo and piercing parlor is one of the most legendary figures in the tattooing world, your reputation will probably precede you. Such is the case for Kari Barba's Outer Limits Tattoo. Its Long Beach location is the flagship studio, acquired in 1983 from the family of the equally legendary Bert Grimm, who in the 1920s opened the Long Beach shop, which carries the distinction of being the first tattoo shop opened in the United States. The Costa Mesa location came around in 2003, and its professional staff strives to give visitors the best experience possible. Piercings are walk-in only, and you can choose from a collection of beautiful jewelry to adorn your bod. All jewelry undergoes a serious sterilization process before it touches your skin. Pro-tip: Call ahead to inquire about the wait time, and make sure to eat beforehand; the only thing worse than being squeamish at your visit is being squeamish and starving, increasing your chances of fainting at the sight of the needle!

22 S. Chestnut Place, Long Beach, (562) 437-9121, also at 2981 Bristol St., Ste. B4, Costa Mesa, (714) 241-8287, www.outerlimitstattoo.com

READERS' CHOICE: RARRELLA STURIOS

Best Liquor Store
HI-TIME WINE CELLARS

It's more than a store, it's a bunch of stores that could each be considered the best in its category. The namesake wine cellars, which have crushed grape elixirs from the very highest end to the stuff the rest of us drink, snake around the back. But there is so much wine product it spills onto the main floor, where you'll also find aisles and aisles of liquor, mixers and soda. One corner is dedicated to gifts and edibles, while another is lined with tobacco products leading into one of the region's top walk-in cigar humidors. A wine bar that hosts regular tast-

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ChenSmiles.com • 714.544.1391
Graduate of Northwestern University & Faculty Member at USC

Thank You Orange County for Voting Kyle Lint

OC WEEKLY BEST OF READERS' CHOICE WINNER 2017

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949-273-3435

LintAutomotive.com

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BEST OF READERS' CHOICE WINNER OCWEEKLY 2018

VOTED OC'S
BEST MANICURE & PEDICURE
2018 READERS' CHOICE

COSTA MESA • CORONA DEL MAR • VILLA PARK

ings and special events is downstairs, and an attached building handles all things beer, with stocked shelves behind glass fronting a large walk-in cooler, which is not to be confused with the room-sized fridge for kegs. Don't worry, the friendly and expert staff will get you where you need to be

250 Ogle St , Costa Mesa, (949) 650-8463, www hitimewine net.

READERS' CHOICE: HI-TIME WINE CELLARS

Best Body Shop
FOUNTAIN VALLEY BODYWORKS

There's a reason Fountain Valley Bodyworks and its baby sister, Bodyworks Express, are the most trusted by Orange County With 44 years of experience, its service remains honest, fast and fairly priced.

Fountain Valley Bodyworks, 17481 Newhope St., Fountain Valley, (714) 751-8812 Fountain Valley Bodyworks Express, 18125 Euclid St , Fountain Valley, (714) 540-2111 www fvbodyworks com

READERS' CHOICE- FOUNTAIN VALLEY BODYWORKS

Best Lawyer
JOEL GARSON

Perhaps there's no better sign of a defense attorney's skill than how much fear he or she strikes in dirty Orange County Sheriff's Department deputies. If that's the case, then there's evidence that Tustin-based lawyer Joel Garson, a veteran of 29 years, ranks among the local elite Deputies illegally recorded hundreds of Garson's attorney-client conversations using a secretive jailhouse-telephone-monitoring system. More impressive? Garson unearthed the budding law-enforcement scandal.

1432 Edinger Ave , Ste 240, Tustin, (714) 258-7200

Best Union
COALITION OF RESORT LABOR UNIONS

Getting shortchanged on their own by Disney time and time again, cast-member unions banded together two years ago to form the Coalition of Resort Labor Unions, shaking the House of the Mouse in ways not seen since the Disneyland Strike of 1984. It all began with an anonymous survey last fall charting the working poverty of cast members In February, the results turned into a shocking report that made international headlines and provided momentum for a living-wage ballot measure for subsidized corporations in the area known as the Anaheim Resort, including Disney The Mouse started scurrying, giving big raises to some union workers, but not all. Then, it called on the city of Anaheim to cancel its most recent subsidy agreements, a move assailed by Disney critics as one seeking to dodge the living-wage measure that was poised to pass But the ordinance's author says the fight is still on thanks to a 1996 Disneyland expansion deal. In November, voters will decide whether the coalition's muscling of the Mouse will pay off for thousands of cast members Oh, boy!

Best Record Store
OYZZY ON VYNYL

Plenty of record stores can make you feel as if you're walking into a time warp, being surrounded by walls full of ancient technology will do that. But walking into Dyzzy On Vynyl, there's something that makes that stale experience come alive The two-room record store on Seventh Street is packed to the brim with hidden treasures, making the experience akin to a sonic spelunking expedition in your uncle's garage Leaning mostly toward music of the '60s, '70s and '80s, the stacks hold jazz, funk, rock, folk and a smattering of classic hip-hop ranging from classics to wonderfully weird randomness No matter what you're looking for, you'll always come away with a handful of ultra-cheap gems you didn't know you wanted. Guiding you on this journey is LBC's ultimate uncle of vinyl, Kevin "Dyzzy" Diehm, who is as prone to tangents on concerts he saw 30 years ago as he is to pointing out the best stuff you can buy from the ever-popular 50-cent bin. When he's not slinging wax or gabbing about music, Dyzzy also hosts a fair share of in-store performances by locals who shake the shelves.

3004 E Seventh St., Long Beach, (562) 438-8928

READERS' CHOICE- BEATNIK BANDITO MUSIC EMPORIUM

JOHNNY ASHBAUGH

BEST OF WINNER
BEST ADULT STORE

SPANKYS 50 1968 - 2018

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ADULT TOYS, LINGERIE, SUPPLEMENTS
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OPEN 24/7 | 213 N HARBOR BLVD SANTA ANA 92703 | 714.554.4495 | WWW.SPANKYSONLINE.COM

Voted #1 Car Wash

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BEST OF
READERS' CHOICE
WINNER
OCWEEKLY
2018

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Huntington Beach, CA 92649

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San Clemente, Ca 92672

Xpress

Huntington Beach Xpress
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Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Norwalk Xpress
12616 Imperial Hwy
Norwalk, CA 90650

Santa Ana Xpress
325 N. Tustin
Santa Ana, CA 92705

RussellFischer.com
Info@RussellFischer.com

@RussellFischerCarCare

(714)-842-4453

Cannabis
BEST OF 2018
MURAL BY FREE HUMANITY

THANK YOU OC WEEKLY AND
CUSTOMERS OF ORANGE COUNTY

FOR VOTING *blüm*
BEST BUDTENDERS FOR A 2ND YEAR IN A ROW!

BEST OF
READERS' CHOICE
WINNER
OCWEEKLY
2018

blüm FREELY

2911 TECH CENTER DRIVE .. SANTA ANA

#LETSBLUM CANNABIS RETAIL A10-17-0000064 - TEMP @LETSBLUM

Best Vape Pen
PLUG PLAY

Whether you're an everyday Bob Marley or the casual toker, Plug Play's line of vape pens and accessories has something for everyone. Some people will say they love the discreet design, while others will praise the company for taking the guesswork out of how you want to feel. We really love Plug Play for the taste and, more important, for the tingling feeling we get while sneaking a quick hit or two in between deadlines.

Available at dispensaries throughout Orange County. www.plugplayallday.com

READERS' CHOICE: STIIZY

Best Shatter
MOXIE

The indica-dominant strain Grape Skunk is a trifecta of flavors, odor and effects. A combination of grapefruit, blueberry and Super Skunk, this knockout shatter is the obvious choice as our favorite. Packed with more sugary berry flavor than a bowl of kids' cereal and perfect for curing whatever ailments you feel, we keep a few of these handy.

Available at MedMen, 2141 S. Wright St., Santa Ana, (714) 515-0506

READERS' CHOICE: MOXIE

Best Live Resin
NAMELESS GENETICS

There are very few disadvantages to live resin. With a superior flavor profile, CO2 extraction and a wider range of cannabinoids found in the finished product, you can bet that extra care shines through. The award-winning Mega Wellness OG's live resin terp sauce from Nameless Genetics has a smell that's akin to a walk through a field of citrus trees on a warm evening while the effects will leave you searching for the nearest chair. Don't forget to bring a packed lunch because you're probably going to be here for a while.

Available at Temple of Supreme Purity, 1834 Newport Blvd., Ste. C, Costa Mesa, (949) 520-0179, www.supremepurity.com

READERS' CHOICE: MOXIE AT SHOWGROW

Best Medicated Drink
ENJOY, IT'S LEGAL

With 100 milligrams of THC mixed with deliciously tart Rainier cherries, Enjoy, It's Legal is perfect for your next hike, festival or birthday party for that relative you barely know. If you aren't ready for a TKO, then maybe one of Mirth Provisions' four other flavors. There's even an espresso mocha sativa so you can skip that line at Starbucks!

mirthprovisions.com

READERS' CHOICE: CAHHABIS QUEHCHER

Best OC Dispensary
MEOMEN

Do we really need to explain why this place seems to be king of the mountain? MedMen is more like an Apple store, setting the standard for what a dispensary should be. Bright cases lining the interior of the sales floor display everything from edibles to flowers, and the knowledgeable sales staff are always upfront and honest about each product.

2141 S. Wright St., Santa Ana, (714) 515-0506

READERS' CHOICE: SHOWGROW

Best Smoke Shop
UP IN SMOKE

We used to go to the swap meet every month, bypassing useless trinkets and bootleg Metallica T-shirts for the guy who sold bongs for $10 more than what they were worth. Now, whenever we lose a member of our pipe family, we replace it with something we've picked up from Up In Smoke. Located in the heart of Central OC, this well-stocked shop has everything you need to make your dorm room resemble Walter White's RV, with help from the helpful, friendly staff. (At the very least, you'll find something better than that apple you've been using.) If we could just get delivery ...

270 Bristol St., Ste. 101, Costa Mesa (714) 641-1008

READERS' CHOICE: ZIGGY'S SMORE SHOP

Best Topical
PAPA & BARKLEY

If you want the healing powers from cannabis without having to breathe in a combustible plant's smoke, Papa & Barkley get it. (We get it, too, but you're not invited to our birthday party.) The company worked hard to bring us all a gift in their newest Releaf Patch, which delivers pain relief for up to 12 hours. Patients can place the time-release square anywhere and continue to live and work freely. The medicated formula also takes the guesswork out of selecting which ratio of CBD-to-THC is right for you by offering several options, all of them super-affordable and free of any smells.

www.papaandbarkley.com

READERS' CHOICE: PAPA & BARKLEY

Best Cannabis Road Trip
SALVATION MOUNTAIN

Orange County residents are never short of weekend getaways: Los Angeles, San Diego and their respective international airports are all within reach. And since Palm Springs is always packed, we think it's time to highlight the perfect destination for finding your spirit animal. Salvation Mountain is located in Niland, off Highway 111, just east of the Salton Sea and just west of the center of the sun. What it lacks in shade it certainly makes up for in aesthetics. We took a trip recently and found the (hopefully) nontoxic painted mounds to be the ideal place to enjoy a bowl or joint. Make sure you bring extra water and an offering to the gods.

Best Medicated Lotion
LORD JONES

The soothing, rich, luxurious, CBD Pain and Wellness Formula Body Lotion is designed to be penetrating and readily absorbed. It works miracles for sore muscles, joint pain and skin conditions, including psoriasis and eczema. We know a woman who has had arthritis in her hands for the past five years, and nothing has worked better for her pain than Lord Jones' CBD cream—and she hates weed!

www.lordjones.com

Best Indica Strain
AURORA BOREALIS

The aurora borealis, a.k.a. northern lights, is a naturally occurring phenomenon that probably freaked out a ton of people before science became generally accepted. Once we discovered it had nothing to do with whether the Gods were angry and was more about non-magical solar flares, tourists gathered for the chance to marvel at its wonder. We like spare just as much as the next Carl Sagan, but the best way to get a sense of just how small we are in this universe is to roll up some of its finest flowers and meditate. And that's where this award-winning strain comes in. Its sticky, terpenoid-rich buds are perfect for relaxing under the stars or taking in whatever life—or the universe—throws at you.

READERS' CHOICE: SKYWALKER OG

Best Edible
GARDEN SOCIETY

It's not necessarily a bad thing that edibles can't contain more than 100 milligrams of THC anymore. It gives people less of an opportunity to overmedicate and think they're having a heart attack. It also makes microdosing easier—and who doesn't like microdosing? With Garden Society's clean ingredients, clean cannabis flowers, high THC-A and CBD, and low-doses of THC in its Bliss Blossoms and Bright Blooms, medicating has never been healthier or classier.

www.thegardensociety.com

READERS' CHOICE: ROROVA

Best Medicated Pantry Item
ZENOO

Off the top of our heads we can name about a million uses for coconut oil.

DAVE VAN PATTEN

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2018 BEST OF READERS' POLL
The following have been voted the best in the Cannabis category.

BEST BUDTENDERS
RLUM
Santa Ana
www.letsblum.com

BEST CANNABIS DOCTOR
420 DOCTORS
Multiple Locations
www.420doctorsla.com

BEST CANNABIS LAWYER
CHRIS GLEW
Santa Ana
www.glewkimlaw.com

BEST CBD PRODUCT
PAPA & BARKLEY
www.papaandbarkley.com

BEST EDIBLE
KOROVA
www.korovaedibles.com

BEST 420 CHEF
HIGH DINING CLUB
Multiple Locations
www.highdining.club

BEST GLASSWORKS
ZIGGY'S SMOKE SHOP
Westminster
www.ziggysonline.com

BEST HYBRID STRAIN
GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

BEST HYDROPONICS SHOP
OC HYDROPONICS
Stanton
www.ochydro.com

BEST INDICA STRAIN
SKYWALKER OG

BEST LAB TESTING
SC LABS
Santa Ana
www.sclabs.com

BEST LIVE RESIN
MOXIE AT SNOWGROW
www.moxie710.com

BEST LONG BEACH DISPENSARY
SHOWGROW
Long Beach
showgrow.com

BEST MEDICATED DRINK
CANNARIS QUENCHER
vccbrands.com/cannabis-quencher

BEST MEDICATED PANTRY ITEM
KANEH CO AT SHOWGROW
kanehco.com

BEST MOON ROCKS
DR.ZODIAK'S MOONROCK
zodiaksmoonrock.com

BEST NUTRIENTS
ADVANCED NUTRIENTS
www.advancednutrients.com

BEST OC DISPENSARY
SHOWGROW
Santa Ana
showgrow.com

BEST PATIENT APPRECIATION DAY
OC3 DISPENSARY
Santa Ana
oc3dispensary.com

BEST PLACE TO GET LIT
YOUR OWN HOME

BEST PREROLLS
FATTY'S
www.fattyspreroll.com

BEST SATIVA STRAIN
TANGIE CREAM

BEST SHATTER
MOXIE
www.moxie710.com

BEST SMOKE SHOP
ZIGGY'S SMOKE SHOP
Westminster
www.ziggysonline.com

BEST TINCTURE
PAPA & BARKLEY
www.papaandbarkley.com

BEST TOPICAL
PAPA & BARKLEY
www.papaandbarkley.com

BEST VAPE PEN
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stiiizy.com

QUALITY STAFF.
QUALITY PRODUCT.

BEST OF READERS' POLL NOMINEE OCWEEKLY 2018

WE CARRY ALL NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR EXCEPTIONAL HYDROPONIC SUCCESS
WELCOME TO 55 HYDROPONICS
IN ORANGE COUNTY

Thank You

For Nominating Us

BEST HYDROPONICS SHOP

714.259.7755 | 55HYDRO.COM
1727 BOYD ST. SANTA ANA, CA

Cannabis
BEST OF 2018

From baking in the kitchen to baking in the sun, the tropical lubricant really can do it all. Zendo's all-natural, gluten-free cannabis-infused coconut oil comes with three servings, each one clocking in at 20 milligrams. The oil can be used orally or topically, but we also like to use it as a replacement for butter when baking cookies. We won't judge you if you choose to slather yourself in it and wrestle your bestie; just make sure to keep it out of your eyes when trying a full nelson—it stings

www.zendoedibles.com

READERS' CHOICE: KARER CO. AT SRDWGROW

Best Budtenders
BUD AND BLOOM

In order to find the best budtenders in OC, we sent out the mom of one of our writers—she hasn't smoked cannabis since George H.W. Bush was in office! After scouring the entire county and asking painfully obvious questions at each dispensary, she picked Bud and Bloom. Not only did its knowledgeable staff answer every conceivable question she could muster, but they also worked hard to select a strain that fit her exclusive needs. With so many products, strains and companies out there, it's easy to be intimidated and purchase the wrong product. But Bud and Bloom helps to take the guesswork out of purchasing cannabis and leaves you feeling like a kid in a candy shop.

1327 E. St. Gertrude Place, Santa Ana, (714) 576-2150, budandbloomoc.com

READERS' CHOICE: BLŪM

Best Patient Appreciation Day
420 CENTRAL

In a world where recreational marijuana is dominating the market, nothing shows the true character of a business like celebrating medical-cannabis patients. The team at 420 Central hasn't lost sight of the fact that patients—the people who use the plant to live—are the reason cannabis is legal today. They treat patients with unrivaled respect, dedicating days to them that offer discounts, celebrity appearances, musical performances, education and chances to meet the actual medical-cannabis vendors.

420 W. Central Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 540-4420, 420central.org

READERS' CHOICE: OC3 DISPENSARY

Best Cannabis Lawyer
CHRIS GLEW

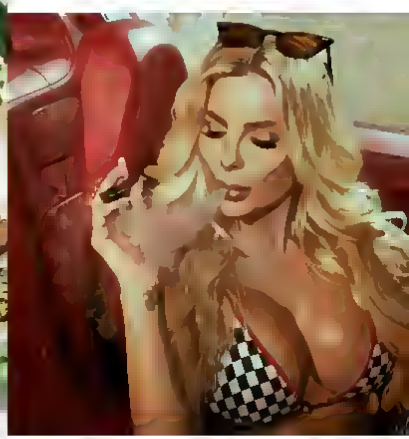
The man, the myth, the legendary canna-law crusader: Chris Glew has years of experience in this field, with a catalog of high-end clients testifying to his hard work and success. When it comes to knowing the rights of cannabis entrepreneurs and consumers, as well as what it takes to be compliant, he is simply unrivaled.

The Law Offices of Glew & Kim, 1851 E. First St., Ste. 840, Santa Ana, (714) 646-0004, www.glewkimlaw.com

READERS' CHOICE: CHRIS GLEW

Best Munchies Spot, North OC
NGUYEN'S KITCHEN

It's late, you're pretty baked, and whatever fast food you can find isn't going to cut the proverbial mustard. We've been there. Luckily, Nguyen's Kitchen in Orange



STIIIZY started with one purpose: to create a quality product and modern delivery system for cannabis use. The co-owner of STIIIZY is a veteran of the Iraq War, and after returning with PTSD and a prescription for pills, he turned to cannabis for natural medication. With his passion for marijuana and love for the cannabis culture, he and his partners launched STIIIZY in late 2017.

As one of the hottest new brands, STIIIZY has garnered a cult-like following. Thanks to its authentic West Coast roots, which emanate throughout all aspects of the brand, it's making noise in the industry. STIIIZY is revolutionizing the cannabis industry by introducing the next generation of modern THC delivery systems. There is no longer a need for the outdated, standard 510 thread vaporizers that have constant issues.

In less than a year, it has become a multi-award-winning brand. STIIIZY offers a discreet experience built for portability and convenience with premium-quality concentrates that uphold a high level of potency and purity. It is setting the industry standard to influence and inspire through innovative methods.

At this time, STIIIZY is only available in the state of California, but it plans to expand across the U.S. soon.

FIND OUT MORE AT STIIIZY.COM

THANK YOU FOR VOTING

FATTY'S™
FOR THE PROFESSIONAL SMOKER

BEST PRE ROLL
2 YEARS IN A ROW!

BEST OF READERS' CHOICE WINNER OCWEEKLY 2016

OCWEEKLY BEST OF READERS' CHOICE WINNER 2017

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FATTY'S ROSIN ROLL MADE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL SMOKER 100% PURE BUD INFUSED WITH STRAIN SPECIFIC ROSIN WAX, HASH & KIEF UNRIVALED POTENCY & FLAVOR. NO ADDITIVES

Cannabis BEST OF 2018

serves Asian fusion until 2:30 a.m. every day. Everything from bánh mì sandwiches to Asian-style garlic noodles get reworked in a chaotic yet controlled environment. Our favorite dish is the standard grilled-chicken-and-rice bowl featuring the kitchen's signature savory sauce and slaw. Affordability paired with honest ingredients and late hours make this North County eatery our go-to to quell our hunger pains after a night out in DTSA.

445 S. Main St., Ste. B, Orange, (714) 771-5410
www.nguyenskitchen.com

Best Tincture

KING HARVEST WELLNESS CBD RESTORE TINCTURE

The new wave of cannabis has taught us a lot about the plant, particularly cannabidiol (CBD). From relieving anxiety, arthritis pain, chronic pain and nausea to halting seizures in their tracks, CBD—the non-psychoactive compound in the cannabis plant—is one of nature's miracle remedies. King Harvest Wellness, which makes quality medicine that's always consistent and reliable, offers one of the market's cleanest, most effective CBD tinctures. If you're looking for quality, whole-plant CBD, then the brand's Restore is the ideal product.

kingharvest.org

READERS' CHOICE: PAPA & BARKLEY

Best Moon Rocks

APOLLO'S FIRE ROCKS

There are sun rocks and moon rocks—and then there are fire rocks. These balls of lifted glory are what sun rocks and moon rocks wish they were. Apollo's Fire Rocks are arguably the strongest nugs on the legal market. Blackberry OG flower wrapped in a solvent-less concentrate and sprinkled in an opaque coat of top-shelf indica kief, these dense, golden-green nuggets definitely hold the power to send you to Mercury (the planet of fire—duh!). They are basically 100 percent indica, containing around 70 percent THC and 0.29 percent CBD. So whether you smoke it alone or crumble it up and roll it into a joint, make sure you prepare for an existential and spiritual blast off.

READERS' CHOICE:
DR.ZODIAK'S MOONROCK

Best Munchies Spot Central OC

TACO MARÍA

There's no arguing this one. Real stoners love Mexican food. And if you love Mexican food, then you will LOVE Taco María. Even if you don't use cannabis, you need to go. But if you do, stop what you're doing, spark one up, then take a Lyft to Taco María ASAP. The authenticity expressed in each menu item has had a profound impact on the culture of Mexican food in Orange County. Plus, you feel good after eating, which isn't always the case with Mexican cuisine. What's better than eating great, tasty *comida* that doesn't make you feel shitty afterward? Domg so while you're high.

3313 Hyland Ave., Costa Mesa, (714) 538-8444,
www.tacomaria.com

Best Sativa Strain

CHARGE BY CANNOESCENT

We shared one of Canndescent's Charge preroll joints on the beach in Laguna, and we went from sitting on the rocks and enjoying the sun to climbing to the end of the jetty, inspecting each rock along the way. We went from being relatively silent to chattering about why vapor forms clouds and who we would tell if we found out chem-trails were the reason everyone gets cancer. We cried because we could feel the emotions of the ocean, then laughed and cried at the same time when we saw dolphins. It was a special day made 10 times more magical thanks to Charge.

www.canndescent.com

READERS' CHOICE: TAHGIE DREAM

Best Lab Testing

BELCOSTA LABS

If you didn't check out our 710 Guide in July, then head to potplus.com and search for Mary Carreon's profile on the guys

OCWEEKLY BEST OF 2018

THANK YOU

OC WEEKLY VOTES PAPA & BARKLEY "BEST OF" FOR TOPICALS, TINCTURES & CBD PRODUCTS.

PAPA & BARKLEY
papaandbarkley.com

888-981-9978

Cannabis
BEST OF 2018

behind BelCosta Labs. The cannabis-lab-testing market is responsible for consumer health and getting products put on shelves. But, as with most things in life, not all labs are created equal. BelCosta Labs, however, take this responsibility seriously, going above and beyond in terms of its facility and the standards it holds the industry to—and sets.

1131 E. South St., Long Beach, (562) 676-4206, www.belcostalabs.com

READERS' CHOICE: SC LABS

Best CBD Product

CALM BY DOSIST

Dosist (formerly HMBLDT) has mastered the art of both dosing and clean CBD with Calm, a high-CBD formula that harnesses the anti-anxiety properties of the chemical. The company is also ahead of the game in terms of its scientific understanding of terpenes. This calming vape-oil mix contains myrcene, which is balanced with the grounding influences of beta-caryophyllene and limonene—a blend that's ideal if you struggle with anxiety or stress. It's also great if you just want to feel like goo. The pre-filled pen offers more than 200 doses measured at 2.25 milligrams per puff.

dosist.com

READERS' CHOICE: PAPA & BARKLEY

Best Cannabis Doctor

DR. BONNI GOLDSTEIN

If every newspaper or magazine that published a Best Of issue had Best Cannabis Doctor as a category, Dr. Bonni Goldstein would win every time. Based in Lawndale (which is not in OC, but we're excusing that because, well, read on), the world-renowned hero has saved children's lives through the power of the cannabis plant. Though prescribing cannabis to children is inherently controversial, she has only experienced positive results. Plus, she has a personal relationship with each of her patients and one of the most empathetic hearts we've ever come across. Dr. Goldstein will win Best Cannabis Doctor forever, no matter where she's located.

15901 Hawthorne Blvd., Lawndale, (855) 411-4420, www.canna-centers.com

READERS' CHOICE: 420 DOCTORS

The Best Only Come Together in One Place

ShowGrow™ / KANEH CO™

Back2Back2Back

OC DISPENSARY OF THE YEAR

Best Medicated Pantry Item

Kaneh Co

Long Beach's Dispensary of the Year

ShowGrow

Orange County
1625 E. St. Gertrude Pl Santa Ana, CA 92705 | 949-565-4769
7am - 10pm Everyday | Medical + Recreational Dispensary

Long Beach
3411 E. Anaheim St Long Beach, CA 90802 | 562-494-8437
9am - 8pm Everyday | Medical Dispensary

PotPlus.com
CANNABIS NEWS // PRODUCTS // REVIEWS

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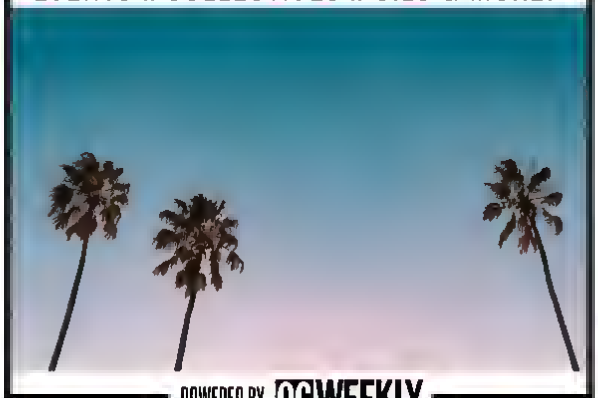
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Cannabis BEST OF 2018

Best Hybrid Strain

STRAWBERRY BANANA BY THC DESIGN

If you're looking for a balanced high, this is your jam. Known for its heavy resin production and high THC content, THC Design Strawberry Banana produces happy, peaceful effects that sharpen creativity and sensory awareness. This strong, indica-dominant hybrid has the ability to push you into ultimate relaxation—a must-try for indica-lovers looking for a sweet and savory flower.

thcdesign.com

READERS' CHOICE: GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

Best Prerolls

HENRY'S ORIGINAL

Few things are better than prerolled joints, and Henry's Original makes some of the best artisan preroll joints on the market. It's also one of the few companies that has its shit together in regards to compliancy. Henry's Original's heirloom cannabis tastes like professional home-grown goodness: clean, full of flavor and crystalline color—not schwag weed that tastes like fried greens.

henrysoriginal.com

READERS' CHOICE: FATTY'S

Best 420 Chef

PEPPER & CO.

Founded in 2013, this nonprofit aimed at helping children also donates profits toward local housing developments for low-income families. Even without the company's contributions to charities and the cannabis community, chef Pepper's tasteful, carefully crafted confections stand on their own. Each slice of medicated heaven is almost too pretty to eat—almost. We can't stop fawning over the Bento Boxes, and we're pretty sure her line of cake pops resembling Japan's favorite kitty stays stocked at dispensaries for about as long as it took you to read this.

www.instagram.com/pepperco.official

READERS' CHOICE: HIGH DINING CLUB

Best Glassworks

THE MOTHERSHIP EXOSPHERE

If you're looking for the best, be prepared to fork out some cash because well-made glassworks are never cheap—and anyone who tells you differently isn't your friend. Mothership Glass is about as high-end as a glass company gets. Only select head shops carry its products, and it's hard to keep them on shelves. So when you find one, you know you're having the best day of your life. The Exosphere resembles a C-class spaceship that's capable of long-distance travel—you know, like, from solar system to solar system. Anything that looks like that is going to get you higher than you've ever been.

mothershipglass.com

READERS' CHOICE: ZIGGY'S SMOKE SHOP

Best Place to Get Lit

YOUR OWN HOME

Disneyland is crowded, gas prices are through the roof, and the beaches are full of tourists. After the most recent round of fires, our favorite hiking spots are closed for repair, and we still have to pay rent at the end of the month. With all this on our minds, we think it's time to give an award to a place that we can count on to make us feel like a baby nestled up against its mother: your home. Avoid the traffic of the 405, ditch the pants, embrace your inner agoraphobia, and roll one up in your own place. Nothing beats a day spent idly clicking through your Netflix menu, searching for a movie or television show that doesn't suck or you haven't already seen. Extra points if you have a dog or cat to talk to as if it were a person.

READERS' CHOICE: YOUR OWN HOME

OCWEEKLY BEST OF 2018

VENDOR DEMOS

Thursday October 18
Supplied by 1904 12 - 2 pm
Select Oil 12 - 3 pm

Friday October 19
Sensi Chew 12 - 2 pm
Supplied by 1904 1 - 3 pm
FlavRx 3 - 6 pm

Saturday October 20
Mary's Medicinals 11 am - 2 pm

Bud and Bloom OC/CA

UPCOMING EVENTS

HALLOWEED SPOOKTACULAR
Patient Appreciation Event
Friday October 26th 4 PM - 7 PM
30% off participating vendors' products

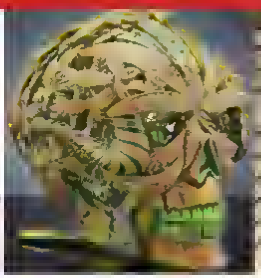
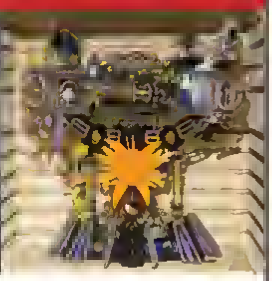
(714) 570-2150 - 1527 E St Gertrude Place, Santa Ana, CA 92705
www.BUDANDBLOOMOC.com
State License
Adult-Use Retail A10-18-0000099-TEMP Medical Retail M10-17-0000080-TEMP

best of readers' choice WINNER OC WEEKLY 2018

Orange County, Thank You For Voting Ziggy's

BEST SMOKE SHOP!

& BEST GLASS WORKS

ZIGGY'S™

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Westminster, CA 92683

DEALS

CARTRIDGES
BRASS KNUCKLES 2G FOR $80
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FLOWER OF LIFE $5 OFF
TREE BASE 1 FOR $35
YIN YANG 1G FOR $40

PRE-ROLLS
2 FOR $25
PRESIDENTIALS • FIRE STIK • WCC JOINTS
MOONROCKET • DANK ROLLS
HASH BULLET- 2 FOR $20
GOLANI 2 FOR $25
2020 FUTURE 2 FOR $45

WAX
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UPCOMING SEX EDUCATION EVENTS

LEARNING THE ROPES: BASIC ROPE BONDAGE
THURS. OCT. 25TH @ 7:15PM

Are you interested in rope bondage, but overwhelmed by the amount of information and techniques available? This workshop is geared towards the beginner who wants to learn some basic knots and ties that you can use at home. This is a beginner level class. No prior rope experience is necessary. Tickets are $20 per person or $30 per couple when prepaid by 10/24/18. If space is available, tickets will be $25 per person on the day of the workshop.

HOW TO PLEASE A WOMAN:
THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO FEMALE ORGASMS
THURS. NOV. 8TH

This workshop is open to women & couples. In this workshop we will learn how to have more frequent & more powerful orgasms! We will discuss the female sexual response cycle and the best ways to achieve orgasms through penetration, clitoral stimulation and g-spot play. Tickets are $15 per person or $25 per couple when prepaid by 11/7/18. If space is available, tickets are $25 per person on the day of the workshop.

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Jacks

I have a secret: For the past three months, I've been attending a local Jacks club (a men-only masturbation event). As someone recovering from sexual abuse, I feel the party to be safe, therapeutic and just sexy fun. I feel like I need this! Unfortunately, I spotted one of my employees at his week's event. Although I'm openly gay at my workplace, being naked, erect and sexual in the same room as my employee felt wrong. I freaked out, packed up and departed without him seeing me (I hope). I'm his manager at work, and I feel that being sexual around him could damage our professional relationship. It could even have dangerous HR consequences. I realize he has every right to attend Jacks—just as much right as I do—but I wish he weren't there. I want to continue attending Jacks, but what if he's there again? Frankly, I'm terrified to discuss the topic with him. Help!

Just A Cock Craving Safety

"I hate to say it, but now that JACKS knows his employee attends these events, he really has to stop going," said Alison Green, the management consultant behind the popular Ask a Manager advice column (askamanager.org) and the author of *Ask a Manager: How to Navigate Clueless Colleagues, Lunch-Stealing Bosses, and the Rest of Your Life at Work*.

And why do you have to stop going to your beloved JO club?

"In an employment relationship where he's in a position of power," said Green, "JACKS has a responsibility to avoid any remotely sexual situation with an employee."

Green also strongly advises against pulling your employee aside and working out some sort of shared-custody agreement—i.e., you get Jacks to yourself every other week—because initiating a conversation with a subordinate about when and where he likes to jack off would be a bad idea. She also doesn't think you can just keep going in the hopes that your employee won't be back.

"If he continues to attend and it got back to anyone at their workplace, it would be really damaging to his reputation—not the fact that he was at the event to begin with, but the fact that he continued to attend knowing an employee was also participating," said Green. "It would call his professional judgment into question, and it's highly likely that HR would freak out about the potential legal liability that arises when you have a manager and a subordinate in a sexual context together."

It seems crazy unfair to me that you should have to stop going to parties you not only enjoy, JACKS, but that have also aided in your recovery. And Green agrees—it isn't fair—but with great power (management) comes great responsibility (avoiding places where your employees are known to jack off).

"It's never going to feel fair to have to drop out of a private, out-of-work activity just because of your job," said Green. "I'm hoping it's possible for JACKS to find a different club in a neighboring town. Or he could start his own club and offer a safe haven for other managers hiding out from potential run-ins with employees—Jacks for Middle Managers or something!"

While I had Green's attention, I asked her about other sorts of gay social events that might toss a manager and an employee into a sexual context—think of the thousands of men who attended the Folsom Street Fair in San Francisco last month. Gay men (and others) walk around in various states of undress or dress-up, and a lot of flirting, groping and more goes down. Should gay men in management have to skip events like Folsom lest they run into men they supervise?

"Public events are different from private clubs," said Green. "A private club is more intimate, and a public event is, well, public. And it's not reasonable or practical to expect managers to entirely curtail their social lives or never attend a public event. But a private club that's organized specifically and primarily for sexual activity is in a different category."

However, gay managers who run into employees at events like Folsom or circuit parties shouldn't ogle, hit on or photograph their employees.

"If someone who reports to you is in a sexual situation," said Green, "you should keep moving and give them as much space as you reasonably can."

I'm going to give myself the last word here: You've been attending that JO club for months and saw your employee there only once. JACKS, so I think you can risk going back at least one more time. I would hate to see you deprived of release (and see your recovery set back!) if your employee was there only that one time.

Follow Alison Green on Twitter @AskAManager

SAVAGE LOVE

» DAN SAVAGE

My husband and I are visiting Italy right now. We decided to try out the local hospitality and have had two bad hookups. Both of us knew early on in the encounters that we weren't enjoying it, but we didn't know how to extricate ourselves. What is the proper way to end a failed hookup with minimum insult/hurt to the third person?

Texans Seeking Amore

1. The unvarnished truth: "We're sorry, but we aren't really feeling it."
2. The little white lie: "Oh, my goodness, I think the clams we ate earlier were off. I'm so sorry, but we're going to have to call it a night."

My wife recently came out as bisexual after spending time with a woman who awakened her feelings. I suspected for a long time that my wife was probably bisexual, so I had an issues telling her to explore this side of her sexuality. My only caveat for opening our marriage was that I wasn't comfortable with her entering into a relationship with another man. This pissed my wife off, she told me I was being irrational, we fought about it, blah blah blah. Fast-forward a few weeks. My wife swiped right on a guy on Tinder, and then checked in with me to see if the boundaries had shifted. I have a hot-wife-type fetish, so I gave her the okay to swap sexy texts, and we agreed on a possible threesome. It didn't pan out, my wife was bummed, and we moved on. She has started chatting up other guys on Tinder. Nothing has happened yet between them, but I feel like I'm being pulled ahead of where I'm comfortable in exploring an open marriage. I'm not opposed to simple hookups, but a separate relationship with a man? The intimacy and affection parts beg me. How do you acclimate to this kind of adjustment? Or do I throw the brakes on and reverse?

Personally Feeling Fearful Today

So you gave your wife permission to explore her bisexuality—with other women—and she jumped on Tinder and started swiping right on men? Even though you'd told her that wasn't something you were comfortable with? And it now appears that your wife doesn't just want to have sexual experiences with women and men (but mostly with men) but also relationships with other women and men (but mostly with men)? And she only checks in with you about your boundaries to see if they've crumbled yet?

This isn't how someone opens up a marriage, PFFT, unless that someone isn't interested in staying married. So you're going to need to hit the brakes and get some clarity from your wife. You're willing to open your marriage up to allow for outside sexual experiences, preferably ones you get to take part in (hot-wifing scenes, threesomes), but you're not interested in polyamory—that is, you don't want your wife to have a boyfriend. If a boyfriend is what she wants and she's unwilling to compromise and can't negotiate with you in good faith, you don't want to be her husband.

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), cartoonist Ellen Forney on dating with bipolar disorder. Contact Dan via mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter @fakedansavage and visit ITMFA.org.*

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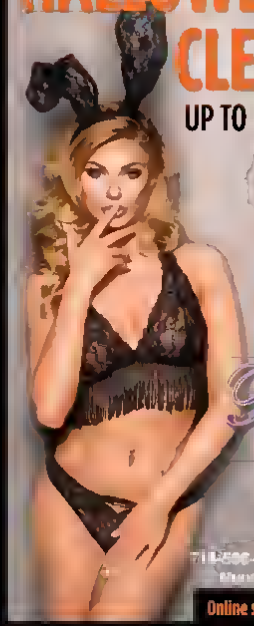

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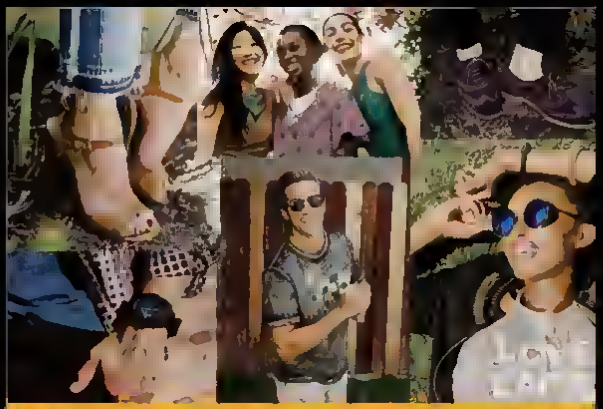

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SANTA ANA COLLEGE MURAL TEAM

BY CYNTHIA REBOLLEDO

Santa Ana College (SAC) has a long, proud history with Chicano murals. Shifra Goldman, the art world's most influential advocate for the genre, taught there in the early 1970s, and it was under her guidance that members of the student organization MEChA helped legendary artist Sergio O'Cadiz paint *The History of The Chicano*, a tableaux depicting an armed *calavera* dressed in bandoliers. The school also has pieces by Emigdio Vasquez and others, establishing it as one of the best unofficial museums of Chicano murals in Southern California.

For decades, the school ran a mural program in which students learned the craft from its masters. But much like OC's Chicano murals, the program slowly faded away, forgotten by new generations who had moved on with their aesthetic tastes. But thanks to art professor Darren Hostetter, the SAC mural program relaunched in 2015.

"We serve a huge Chicano community here, and I thought it was important not only for the students, but also for the community to bring the mural program back," Hostetter says. "I want them to be politically engaged, aware and part of the community."

He had to write a curriculum, reorganize courses and get everything approved by the State Board of Education. It's now a 24-unit program under the auspices of the art department, making SAC the first school in California to offer the specialized field of study.

Hostetter attributes the revival to the Vasquez painting in the lobby of SAC's Cesar Chavez building. As he walked past the painting, he realized his students were missing out on the mural arts that once brought the institution great repute. "When we first started, there were only nine students enrolled in the program," says Hostetter. "I used to have to go recruit and pound the pavement to get students to join. . . . [But] it's been growing every semester."

The program also offers artists who may already have a bachelor's degree in art the opportunity to gain training in murals, including how to plot out a sizable wall, wall preparation and restoration, and even proper safety measures for equipment such as lifts and cherry pickers.

Hostetter and his apprentices have collaborated with the Segerstrom Center (their completed mural was presented to the Veterans Resource Center) and worked on events and projects across OC. "We've been consistently busy," the professor says.

The muralists have also worked with Vasquez's son, Higgy, to restore a hidden work that his late father created as part of a 1998 class he taught at SAC.

CREBOLLEDO@OCWEEKLY.COM

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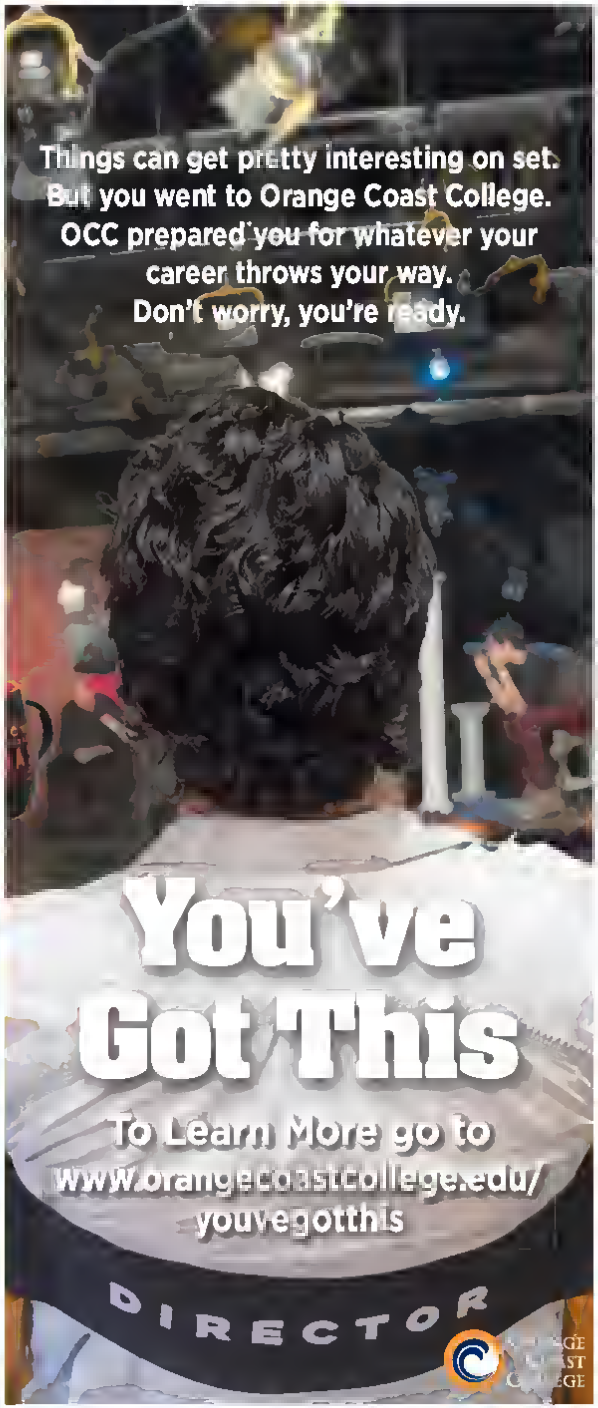
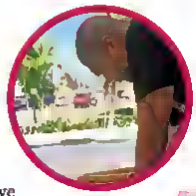


ABOUT *the artists*

CRISSELLE *MENDIOLA*

Crisselle Mendiola is an illustrator and muralist from Santa Ana. Currently obtaining her Bachelor's of Fine Arts at Cal State Long Beach, Mendiola is an alumnus of Santa Ana College and has been part of the SAC Mural Team since 2015. Her character-driven work has a distinct cartoonish style. Sometimes goofy and sometimes sassy, her characters are often placed in dream-like settings that most of the time tell a narrative.

Instagram: @crissellem and @young_asthmatic



JP | JASON *PEREIRA*

A graphic artist of Samoan and Portuguese descent, Jason Pereira was born and raised in the Carson/Harbor Area, he now resides in Garden Grove with his wife and son. With his education in graphic design and murals, Pereira has applied his graffiti art and Pacific Island culture influences in work with both the manufacturing and the brand sides of the action-sports-apparel industry. Pereira is currently taking on mural, commissioned art and graphic design projects.

Instagram: @jpxinsta

"SOUSCHEF" | ALEXANDRIA ARBAST

DAVE *VAN PATTEN*

Dave Van Patten is a Long Beach-based artist focused on illustrations and comics, though he also branches out into larger work. The prolific muralist has participated in the renowned mural project POW!WOW! Long Beach in 2016 and 2017, allowing his tiny comic drawings to span across entire buildings. The bulk of his inspiration is pulled from dark-humor comics, 1960s surrealism, psychedelic garage-rock albums, and modern societal absurdity. Van Patten has created album artwork for the Grateful Dead (Live Concert Series), Les Claypool of Primus, and Burger and Lollipop Records. His work has been published in *Juxtapoz*, *VICE*, *NPR*, *MEL Magazine*, *LA Weekly* and *L.A. Record*. He has self-published several graphic-novel zines and twisted "children's books for grown-ups." Currently, he is adapting a short story by Portland-based Arthur Bradford into a full-length graphic novel.

Instagram: @davevanpatten

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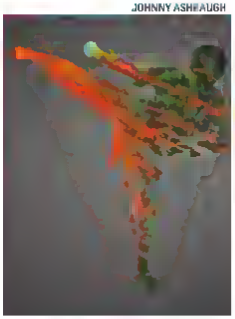
JOHNNY *ASHBAUGH*

Growing up in San Clemente, Johnny Ashbaugh was inspired by the decorative initialing on T-shirts and the artwork on surfboards he saw around town and at the local beaches. These whimsical styles and techniques would lay the foundation for his calligraphy work. Introduced to the art form almost 20 years ago, Ashbaugh believes that calligraphy should be used as a device to express one's feelings and attitudes toward each piece of artwork. He has big plans for a number of upcoming projects.
Instagram. @johnnysartwork

JOHNNY ASHBAUGH



BOOECK LUNA *HERHAHDEZ*

Long Beach painter, illustrator and muralist Bodeck Luna Hernandez seeks to bridge the divide between childhood memories and the digital age. An immigrant from Manila, Philippines, his work explores the relationship between nostalgia, social empowerment and modern society's heavy reliance on disposable technology and consumerism. Hernandez's background in street art heavily influences his paintings and illustrations. He has showcased paintings and curated other artists' works in DIY pop-up shows throughout Long Beach. His site-specific murals in 2017 aimed to honor local residents throughout the area: *Recess* through POW!WOW! Long Beach, *Golden Boy* through the Arts Council for Long Beach's Cambodia Town Mural Project, *Four Continents* on a utility box by the Blue Line Metro Station, the crest banner for Intellectual Virtues Academy, *Blue Pearl* for Covered California in Huntington Beach, and his most ambitious, self-funded project in collaboration with InspiredLBC, *Little Dreamer*, a DACA-inspired mural through StreetArtistsinResidence and Indecline. Hernandez was appointed the art director for the first Long Beach Filipino Festival in 2018. From commercial and private commissions to album covers, he aims to bind the community by showcasing local talent and businesses.
Instagram. @bodeckhernandezart

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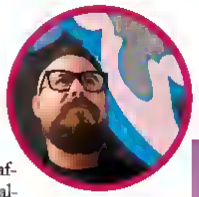
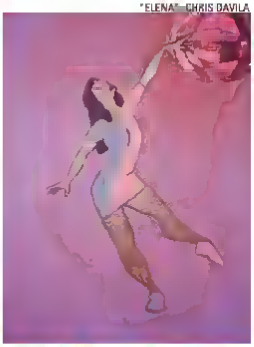
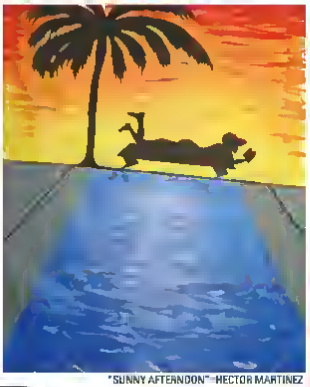


DANA *JAZAYERI*

At the age of 21, Dana Jazayeri left college to open his first retail business, Subject Matter Gallery, Bookstore & Fashion Boutique, on Aug. 9, 2003. The experimental space incorporated an art gallery focusing on street art, graffiti and lowbrow art; a bookstore specializing in art and design books, and a men's and women's fashion boutique. It also hosted monthly art shows, brand pop-ups and book signings. In 2007, Jazayeri separated the three concepts, keeping the original operation at The LAB anti-mall in Costa Mesa and adding As Issued Art & Design Bookstore/Gallery and the Lobby Men's and Women's Boutique. Seven years later and utilizing the same creative model, he opened Marcas Contemporary Art on Fourth Street in Santa Ana's Calle Cuatro district. Most notably, Jazayeri worked on two public art projects for the city of Santa Ana in 2015—one with Chicano painter and muralist George Yepes to re-establish Academia de Yepes, which did not come to fruition because of funding issues, the other the large-scale mural *Suenos Revolucionarios* with renowned street artist and printer Ben Eine. During that time, Jazayeri and a couple of friends founded Yesterdays, an enamel-pin company inspired by pop-culture references that collaborates with artists such as Tara McPherson, Coop and John Van Hamersveld. Yesterdays also works directly with musicians and entertainment companies including the Misfits, David Bowie, 2000AD and the Walking Dead. In 2018, Jazayeri decided to downsize all of his brick-and-mortar concepts into a single space. A platform to bring creatively designed and produced goods to customers, the space features a smaller offering of each concept with a mix of enamel pins, apparel from small brands, original artwork, zines, books, greeting cards, ceramics, accessories and artist-made goods



"ELENA"—CHRIS DAVILA



"SUNNY AFTERNOON"—HECTOR MARTINEZ

"CASABLANCA INK"—KATIE OLSON

JASON *KEAM*

Jason Keam is a painter and animator known for his vibrant colors. He draws inspiration from cartoons and comics, celebrates undefined moments of progression, and recognizes points of insight or memory. Keam has shown his work in the *Seventh Letter* and *Juxtapoz* magazine's clubhouse during art week in Miami. Most recently, he has painted murals for POW!WOW! Long Beach and 365 Whole Foods in Long Beach. When he is not painting, he designs and animates social-media content for top production companies.

Instagram: @jason_keam

OC WEEKLY AWARDS"—MEDARDO SANDOVAL

CYNTHIA *LUJAN*

An interdisciplinary artist residing in LA County, Cynthia Luján holds a Bachelor's of Fine Art from Cal State Long Beach. Her mural work has been featured at the Allery in Bixby Knolls (2016), Cerritos College's FAR BAZAAR, and with FA4 Collective at the Stache Bar in Long Beach. She has done live painting in Orange County for Santa Ana's Cinco de Mayo event and for Avenue 50 Studio at L Festival. Luján's artwork has also been exhibited at the University Art Museum, Torrance Art Museum, Huntington Beach Art Center, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, the Brand Library, LA><ART, and Art Share L.A., among others. She assisted Parisian artist Fafi for POW!WOW! Long Beach 2018 and Puerto Rican artist Sofia Maldonado for PST LA/LA at the Museum of Latin American Art in 2017. Her current artwork explores the themes of identity, public space and power dynamics. She aspires to attend graduate school and hopes to merge her interest in languages with her passion for fine arts by pursuing opportunities that encourage her skills as a visual artist. Her immediate goals are to obtain mural projects, solo exhibitions, and participate in local and international residency opportunities.

Instagram: @desfigurados Website www.cynthialujan.com

DARREN HOSTETTER

DARREN *HOSTETTER*

Darren Hostetter is a professor of studio art at Santa Ana College. Hostetter, who has exhibited internationally, is also a visual artist, illustrator and muralist. Having taught at SAC since 2007, he started the mural program there in 2015. The SAC Mural Team works on the college campus and throughout the greater Orange County community on projects such as SAC Centennial Celebration, SAC Grand Mall dedication, SAC Night at Angel's Stadium, OC Tet fest, Santa Ana *Día de los Muertos*, Behr Paint Co. Headquarters, and POW!WOW! Long Beach. According to his artist statement, "My latest paintings are a lament on the end of privacy. My work is one part paranoia and two parts fascination with the technology of surveillance and the military. Lately, I am just as concerned about the surveillance by us—in the form of oversharing, constant virtual affirmation seeking, selfies and techno voyeurism—as I am about surveillance by the state entities and powerful corporate interests. It just makes me want to live off the grid in the woods sometimes. . . . Is technology freeing us, or is it an intrusion on our lives? My paintings depict technological weaponry and surveillance systems that are set in farcical and whimsical places that look very much like our own world. My pieces pit many contradictory elements against one another: drab military machinery against bold color schemes inspired from commercial design, order versus chaos, and the natural world in opposition to the man-made one. I depict images of how man has both copied the designs in nature and redesigned nature to serve the purpose of projecting power. I am hoping that when the machines finally take over they are nice to us."

Instagram: @darrenhostetter

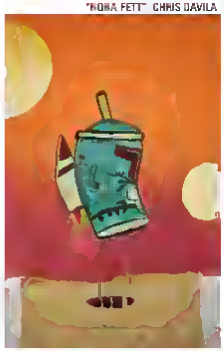
"STEP ON ME" STEPHANIE EUTIMO

TOKOTAH *ASHCRAFT*

Tokotah Ashcraft is the regional director for POW!WOW! Long Beach, the local branch of POW!WOW! Worldwide, an international mural festival that beautifies cities all over the world from Honolulu to Washington, D.C., and from Seoul to Taipei. Along with Imprint Venture Lab and MAEKAN, she is currently helping to coordinate Unexpected Connections, a daylong conference in Long Beach that will bring together some of the greatest creative minds across many industries to discuss and find common ground on Nov. 7. Previously, she has worked for such festivals and events as FYF, Desert Trip and First Fridays. Ashcraft served as an artist adviser on the *OC Weekly* mural project with Santa Ana College.

Instagram: @tokotah_skye

"BOBA FETT" CHRIS DAVILA



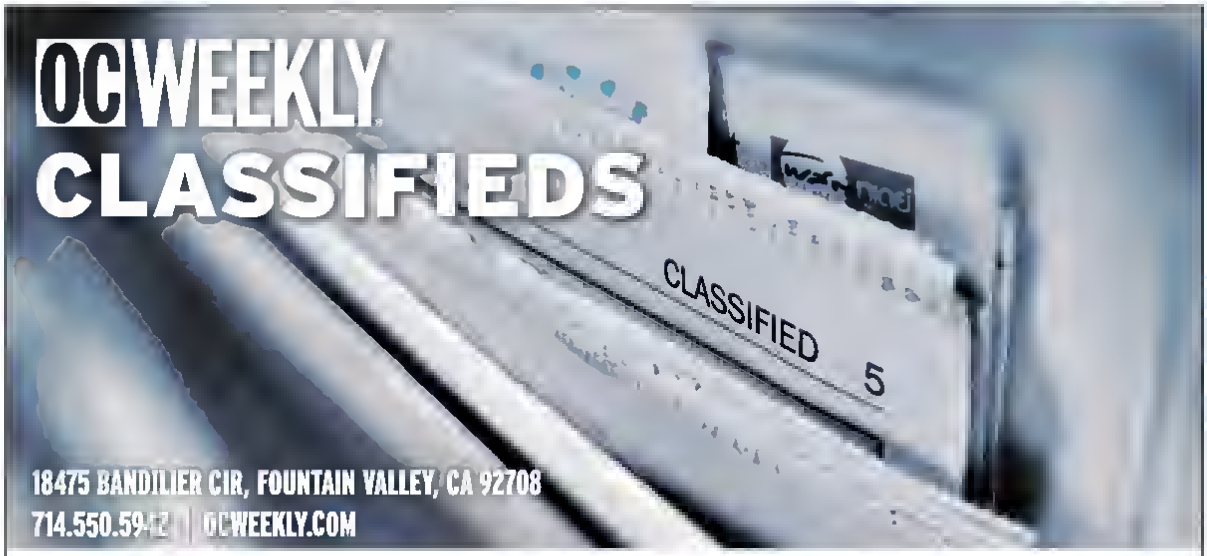
"THE MURALING" KITHYRA HIN

"CASABLANCA VIET" KATIE OLSON

FREE *HUMANITY*

Free Humanity is a multidisciplinary artist and muralist born and raised in Santa Ana. Free Humanity is recognized for his multicolored hearts, positive messages and political statements. His large-scale murals can be seen all over the country, including San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami and New York.

Instagram: @freehumanity



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Sales Engineer
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Financial Analyst (La-guna Beach, CA) Review complex financial data related to real estate appraisals of properties and company business operations to determine which investments are most lucrative. Bachelor's degree or higher degree in Finance or foreign degree equivalent and experience in real estate appraisal industry. Mail resume to Reza Dadash President, Rezidential Development Inc., 923 Santa Ana Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Market Research Manager F/T Research & analyze current market demand of video security products etc. Req: Bachelor's in Marketing, Economics or related or 2 yrs of exp. in job offered. Mail resume to: BIC CART CORPORATION 16682 Millikan Ave Irvine, CA 92606

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PCB Design Engr Job code: PDE/SB) Design & layout complex, multi-layer PCBs using Allium 16. Reqs BS+2yrs exp. Mail resumes to Boundary Devices, Attn: HR, 7 Orchard Rd. Ste 102, Lake Forest, CA 92630. Must ref job title & code.

Digital Media Specialist. Mail resume to Downey Child Care Center, Inc., 9117 Tweedy Lane, Downey, CA 90240.

Principal RF Design Engineer (PRFDE-DIG) Lake Forest, CA. Design & verification of WiFi IC front-end & modem interface. MS or equiv + 3yrs exp. Mail resume to Microchip Technology, Silicon Valley HR, 450 Holger Way San Jose, CA 95134. Must ref title & code.

SAP Systems Manager sought by Karma Automotive in Irvine, CA. Bachelor's plus 5 yr. prog. exp. in related field. Send resume to: Jennifer Jeffries, Director, HR, 9950 Jeronimo Road, Irvine, CA 92618 or email careers@karmaautomotive.com

Development Analyst (Irvine, CA) Analyze information regard-ing urban planning and make strategic recommendations. Master's in urban planning related. Resume to: SeaZen Capital Partners Limited, 5151 California Ave #100, Irvine, CA 92617

Clinical Data Special-ist (Anaheim, CA) Manage clinical database manage-ment system relating to biomedical data. Bachelor's degree in biomedical engineer-ing. Resume to: Advanced Research Center, Inc., 1020 S. Anaheim Blvd. #316, Anaheim, CA 92805

Chiropractor. Diagnose & treat musculoskeletal conditions of spine & extremities including manipulating spine & other extremities. Need D.C. degree + valid CA Chiropractic license. Job in Costa Mesa, CA. Mail CV/ resume to President, Aral Chiropractic Inc., 2960 Harbor Blvd. Ste's A&B, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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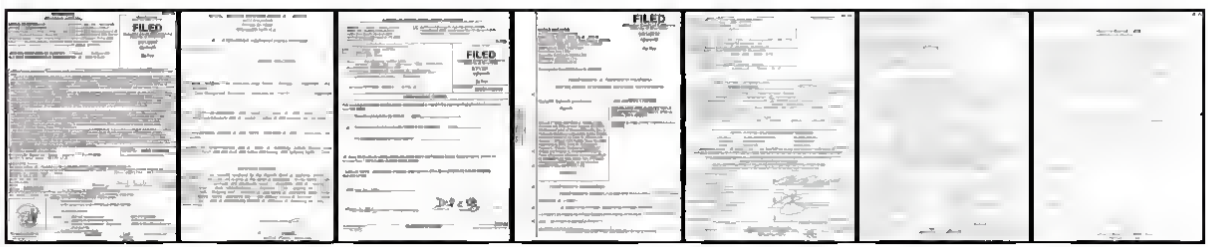

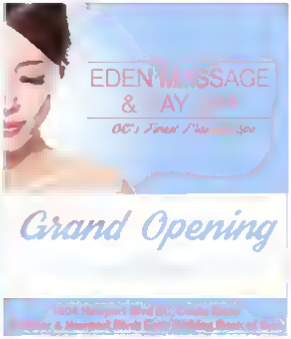

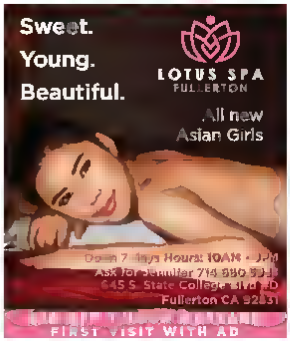

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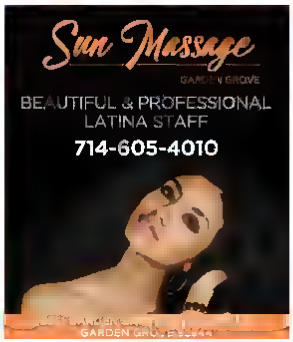

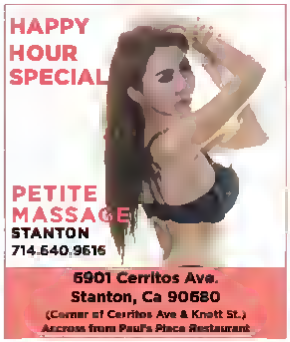

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